

Iran pardons 76 women

NICOSIA (AP) — Seventy-six women convicted in Iran were pardoned or given reduced sentences Tuesday on the birthday of Fatima Zahra, a daughter of the Prophet Mohammad promoted as a role model by the Tehran government. Also on the birth anniversary, 2,000 needy couples were married in nationwide mass ceremonies paid for by a charity organisation. The brides were each given a gold coin from President Hashemi Rafsanjani and provided dowries by the Imam Khomeini Welfare Committee. Tehran Television said the prison sentence commutations were recommended by the judiciary and passed by Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The report gave no details about the women except that they had been convicted by the Islamic revolutionary courts, which judge everything from prostitution to murder. Fatima Zahra was one of three daughters of the founder of Islam. She is especially revered by Shiite Muslims as the wife of Ali, whom the Shiites regard as a divinely empowered spiritual leader. Ever since the 1979 Islamic revolution forced women in Iran under the veil, the country's clerical rulers have been promoting Fatima Zahra as a role model.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

Qatar minister calls on King Fahd

JEDDAH (AP) — Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jasim Al Thani paid an unexpected visit to Saudi Arabia on Tuesday and conferred with King Fahd. The official Qatari and Saudi media reported the visit and meeting but gave no details on the outcome. However, Arab diplomatic sources said that the development raised hopes that Qatar may show up at the annual summit conference of the Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council alliance next week in Abu Dhabi. Saudi Arabia and Qatar fell out Sept. 30 when a border dispute flared up in a clash that left two people dead. Saudi Arabia dismissed the incident as an accident between roaming bedouins, but Qatar said it was precipitated by Saudi forces and suspended a British-brokered border agreement. Saudi Arabia rejected this. Mediators have been trying for a settlement between the two countries. However, a Qatari cabinet minister was fired Monday hours after he said that the coming days would bring "good tidings" in Qatar's frontier dispute with Saudi Arabia.

Volume 17 Number 5184

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1992. JUMADA AL THANI 21, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Arafat holds talks with Sudan leader

JARTOUM (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Tuesday held talks with Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir on U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process. Mr. Arafat, who went into meeting with Assistant-General Bashir immediately after his arrival in Jartoum, said he briefed the Sudanese leader on the latest developments in the Middle East and talks currently under way in Washington. He also said they agreed ways to support the peace process in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Iranian political activist freed

PARIS (R) — Behrur Essid, an Iranian political activist jailed since 1990, has been pardoned by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, said Tuesday. Mr. Essid, 59, was sentenced to five years' jail after being charged with having set up an illegal group and offending the head of state.

Poljans named to lead foreign minister

THE HAGUE (R) — Pieter Poljans, a professor of law and former deputy foreign minister, was named Tuesday to succeed Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek next year. Van den Broek will resign in effect from Jan. 2 after 10 years as Dutch European commissioner. Mr. Kooijmans, 59, is a member of the Christian Democratic Party which heads the current coalition government. He served as deputy foreign minister from 1973 to 1977 and joined Leiden University as a professor of public law. He is internationally recognized as a specialist in human rights.

Walti committee missing dissolved

WAIT (AP) — Parliament Tuesday to dissolve a government committee established to return Gulf war missing persons and prisoners of war (PoWs) held in Iraq. The lawmakers voted to form a new committee to more representatives from the PoWs. "The government must take full responsibility for the war of efforts to release the PoWs," Deputy Abdul Mohsen said in a statement. He said the committee reached its conclusion after meeting with the government committee, human rights groups and others "who have lost all confidence" in the committee. Thirty-four of 41 deputies and ministers attended Tuesday's weekly session approved the proposal for a new committee. The cabinet said it would have to be moved given the widespread dissatisfaction and the size of the majority vote. Kuwaiti prisoners still held 850 prisoners, taken from their homes during the seven-month occupation of the emirate that ended in 1991.

Becker may go to trial this week

BERLIN (R) — A defence lawyer for Erich Becker said today that the former East German leader could be released this week because a new trial report showed he was fit to stand trial for manslaughter. Nicolas Becker told Germany's Info radio station that the trial in Berlin trying Mr. Honecker and three associates may start next Thursday or Monday. The trial because the defendant is suffering from terminal liver cancer. "The report says Mr. Honecker only has a life expectancy of between three and six months," Mr. Becker said. He is receiving a copy of the report. A Berlin justice minister confirmed that officials had received the report on the 80-year-old former Communist Party leader's head of state Tuesday and decided to comment further.

Israeli soldier found dead; 1,200 Palestinians held

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Troops found the body of an Israeli soldier beside a road in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday, two days after an underground group kidnapped him in a futile bid to free its imprisoned leader.

Staff Sergeant Major Nissim Toledano of the border police was murdered by the Hamas organisation. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told parliament after the body was identified.

The Qassam military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) had threatened to kill Toledano last Sunday evening unless Israel released Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the Hamas founder who has been jailed for life.

Mr. Rabin said the soldier, kidnapped earlier Sunday, had been killed in a Hamas campaign to halt the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks that began nearly 14 months ago.

Hamas is second in strength in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which has backed the Middle East peace talks.

"We have but one way: It is split in two — the quest for peace and the all-out war on terror," Mr. Rabin said. "We have no intention of stopping the peace talks under way in Washington."

A former army chief, Mr.

Rabin said authorities had rounded up more than 1,200 Palestinians. Israel Radio said 700 were arrested in the West Bank and 500 in Gaza, including many prominent Palestinians linked to Hamas.

Qassam had already carried out two ambushes of Israeli jeeps this month, killing four soldiers. Toledano's death raised the December unrest toll to 11 Palestinians and six Israeli soldiers — the most violent since peace talks began.

The body of Toledano, 29, was found by a bedouin Arab woman Tuesday morning beside the road leading from Jerusalem to Jericho.

Immediately after the official announcement, Israel Radio carried live coverage from the family home in Lod, a town of mixed Arab and Jewish population that has been tense since the kidnapping.

By dusk, a few Jews were gathered across the road from an Arab neighbourhood in a cold rain, while police backed steel barriers to prevent any advance. At Toledano's house, police kept a tight watch on hundreds of Jews, hauling off demonstrators demanding vengeance against Arabs.

Toledano was the third soldier kidnapped and killed by Hamas in the five-year-old revolt against Israeli rule of the West Bank and

Gaza Strip. Avi Sasportas and Ilan Saadon died in 1989. Saadon's body has never been found.

Mr. Rabin had said Monday — 24 hours after the deadline set by kidnappers for the release of Sheikh Yassin — he was willing to talk to the kidnappers if he received proof Toledano was alive.

Sheikh Yassin, the wheelchair-bound, 57-year-old founder of Hamas, was jailed for life in 1991 on charges of ordering the killing of alleged Palestinian collaborators with Israel.

Israel had sealed off the entire occupied territories for an indefinite period during a manhunt and placed hundreds of thousands of Palestinians under curfew.

In Amman, Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh said he had no knowledge of Toledano's fate. "If it did happen, it is because they have rejected all our proposals. Instead of accepting the bargain we made yesterday, they started arresting our people in the occupied territories."

The arrests were the most sweeping in the occupied lands since the Palestinian uprising began five years ago. Among those detained were Dr. Mahmoud Zahar and Dr. Abdul Aziz Rantisi, believed to be leading figures

of Hamas in Gaza. Sheikh Hamed Beitawi of Beita, a 60-year-old preacher at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque, was among 100 Hamas supporters arrested in the northern West Bank.

Israel also detained a Reuters correspondent in the Gaza Strip, Taher Shireh, who also works as a part-time reporter for the U.S. television network CBS, the New York Times, France's Le Monde and the British Broadcasting Corporation.

The New York-based group Human Rights Watch demanded Mr. Shireh's immediate release "unless there is compelling evidence that he has committed a recognisable criminal offence."

Soldiers and agents of the Shin Bet security service raided cities, villages and refugee camps throughout the occupied lands.

In one incident in the West Bank town of Nablus, troops stormed an apartment building where Hamas activists were believed to be staying, ordered all residents outside and then fired at the house and threw explosives inside, Arab reports said. Two apartments were destroyed and two men arrested, the reports said.

Former Foreign Minister David Levy said Mr. Rabin's six-month-old government had failed to deal with terrorism.



Sidewalks in Amman suburbs were turned white with snow Tuesday (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Rain, snow lash Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Rain and snow swept Jordan Tuesday as a result of a very deep depression centred over Cyprus accompanied by an airmass which is expected to affect Jordan and the eastern Mediterranean region until Thursday, the Department of Meteorology said.

Only regions above 1,200 metres, including western Amman, will continue to receive hail and snow while the other parts of the Kingdom will receive more rain in the coming two days, a Department spokesman said.

The gale-force winds estimated blowing at 90 kilometres per hour swept the country Tuesday.

The cold airmass moving eastwards was blowing from Eastern Europe via Turkey and Greece, causing a considerable drop in temperatures which will not rise above one degree Centigrade at night and seven during the day, the official noted.

He said that more thunder, rain and hail and snow were expected to fall Wednesday on high mountains in the north, central and southern regions.

There is no way of predicting that 1993 will witness similar winter conditions like the 1992 season, when six snowstorms hit the Kingdom, the official said. But he noted that in the past winter gale force winds of 90 and more kilometres an hour were registered.

The continued rain fall he said was expected to form large streams in the wadis and low-lying regions while low clouds cause poor visibility, even in the badia regions.

In Ajloun, one of the high regions receiving snow, a central operations room was set up by the Civil Defence Department to deal with any emergency.

The Civil Defence Department in Amman issued a statement offering advice and guidance to the public about measures to be taken in the face of snow. It called on residents to keep food and water sufficient for at least five days, shovels to remove snow, sufficient amount of candles and a torch in case there was power failure, sufficient first aid materials and enough fuel for several days. The department said that the public should monitor directions issued by Civil Defence teams and the Department of Meteorology by radio and keep away from low-lying areas.

The Jordan Electricity Authority announced that measures were taken to deal with emergency cases and possible power failures.

Peace talks remain on track

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Arab and Israeli peace negotiators are struggling grimly to keep their talks on track despite a wave of killing, violent protests and kidnapping at home.

But a senior Israeli negotiator said Tuesday his country would not give the killers of an Israeli policeman the satisfaction of walking out of peace talks with the Arabs.

"Israel's reaction," said Ambassador Zalman Shoval, "is an attitude of shock and abhorrence about this brutal act of murder." But, he said, "We know the people who killed him (the policeman) also want to kill the peace process, and we're not going to let them have this prize."

Mr. Shoval, Israel's outgoing ambassador to the United States and a member of its delegation to the peace talks, spoke to reporters outside the State Department before entering a negotiating session with the Palestinians.

Mr. Shoval said he was certain the Palestinian negotiators and the majority of those they represent in the West Bank and Gaza do not identify with the extremists who abducted and killed the soldier.

"I think they understand that if this process fails, they will be the biggest losers," Mr. Shoval said. On Monday, after a three-hour session with Israeli delegates, Haidar Abdul Shafi, the chief Palestinian negotiator, said, "Today's session has been held in the shadow of the painful and tragic developments in the occupied territories."

Dr. Abdul Shafi said the unprecedented number of Palestinians wounded over the weekend by Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip "threw a shadow of grief and discontent on our deliberations today."

Dozens of Palestinians were wounded in violent clashes after Israel sealed off the Gaza Strip to

search for the assailants of three Israeli reserve soldiers ambushed there Dec. 7.

Israel's negotiators said the killings, as well as the kidnapping of an Israeli policeman, had cast a pall over the negotiating table.

"Nevertheless, we feel that our common goal is to make progress because the only way to achieve peace is through negotiations," said Israel's main negotiator with the Palestinians, Elyakim Rubinstein.

Heads of the Arab delegations to the peace talks held a meeting in Washington Tuesday to discuss the outcome of the eighth round of talks.

The meeting aimed at coordinating Arab stands before entering the last week of the eighth-round of the talks, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Israel presented the Palesti-

(Continued on page 5)

U.S.-French convoy heads for Somalia's 'city of death'

Controversy rages over disarming gunmen

BAIDOA (Agencies) — A heavily-armed convoy carrying 670 U.S. Marines and French Foreign Legionnaires left Mogadishu Tuesday towards this bandit-besieged town in the heart of Somalia's famine-belt.

U.S. special envoy Robert Oakley indicated they would arrive Wednesday.

Securing Baidoa, dubbed the 'city of death,' is considered a key move in the multinational, U.S.-led forces' mission to ensure that food aid is protected from marauding gunmen.

Mr. Oakley told dispirited aid workers in Baidoa that help was on its way and troops from Operation Restore Hope would arrive shortly to guard them.

"Whatever criticisms we have had in the past, we're all going to put Somalia back in its feet," Mr. Oakley told reporters after meeting Somali leaders and foreign relief workers on a visit to Baidoa.

He declined to say exactly when U.S. Marines would move into the lawless streets of Baidoa but told reporters and Somalis to stay away from the airport and be careful after midnight (2100 GMT) on Tuesday. "I would be very careful after midnight tonight... tomorrow morning there will be a lot of military and civilian events," he said.

on to other famine-hit inland towns such as Bardere, where 160 people die each day.

Despite calls for relief workers and Somalis for troops to disarm gunmen forcibly, Mr. Oakley said the operation did not want to "generate a backlash of guerrilla warfare" against the U.N. mandated force.

"We're going to co-operate with the Somalis to bring about a reduction of armaments and bring the threat of arms under control. They have promised they are going to take the lead which is as it should be because it's their country," he added.

"I am here to tell the Somali people to understand the U.S. military is just an instrument of peace to enable them to get the humanitarian aid they have been deprived of," he said.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali insisted Monday that American troops should disarm Somali warlords and bandit gangs and denied any rift with the United States over their mission. But U.S., U.N. and French views sharply diverged.

While Dr. Ghali told a news conference that disarming the unruly factions was "a prerequisite" of the operation, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters in Washington that disarmament has "never been a part of our mission, and that has not changed."

U.N. officials said privately

that unless gangs and factions are disarmed, it will not be possible to create a secure environment for future political reconciliation and economic reconstruction.

If troops leave behind a country bristling with guns, they say, Somalia will revert to anarchy and famine and lightly armed U.N. peacekeepers would not be able to maintain peace.

Bush administration officials said their aim was to help deliver food to starving Somalis. They do not want U.S. troops bogged down in an open-ended operation to pacify the country and its trigger-happy teenage gunmen.

Mr. Fitzwater said 17,000 U.S. troops will be engaged in Somalia by week's end. The U.S.-led force is expected to reach 40,000.

Dr. Ghali said he did not know how long the troops would have to remain, but said it should be until the country is secure enough for U.N. peacekeepers to take over.

The U.N. chief sought to play down his differences with U.S. leaders over the scope of the American role. He said the operation was just beginning, regular consultations were underway and there might be differences of interpretation.

"There is a perfect cooperation between the United Nations and the (U.S.) unified command," Dr. Ghali said.

(Continued on page 5)

Majali urges centrist unity

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — If political parties are to effectively organise and establish their platforms before the next general parliamentary elections, it would be advisable to delay the elections scheduled for next summer, the secretary general of The Al Ahd Party said Tuesday.

"It will take more than seven to eight months to effectively establish the infrastructure of a popular and functioning party," said Abdul Hadi Al Majali during a news conference officially marking the legalisation of the Al Ahd, one of the first five parties to win legal status in the Kingdom.

Calling on all centrist parties to unite for the sake of election victory, Mr. Majali said: "The Islamists are united and the left is united and I call on the centre to unite."

In an unprecedented statement by any party leader, Mr. Majali said he hoped the current Parliament would not get a renewal of its mandate if the elections are delayed.

"I would like to see the elections delayed for organisational reasons but not if that means giving the current Parliament an extended mandate," he told around 150 party members and journalists at the Philadelphia Hotel.

In order to combat the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and leftist coalitions — such as the Jord-

(Continued on page 5)

6 fundamentalists killed during Algiers curfew

ALGIERS (R) — Security forces killed six Muslim fundamentalists and wounded one in an overnight gunbattle in the curfew-bound capital of Algeria, Algiers Radio said Tuesday.

The brief report followed a night of heavy gunfire in the strongly-fundamentalist district of Badjarah, a southeastern suburb near Kouba where five policemen were ambushed and killed Monday and one was wounded.

On Tuesday, just after the end of the 10.30 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew, blood could be seen congealing on the road outside the main mosque.

The radio said shooting started just after 12.30 a.m. and lasted through most of the curfew.

During the morning, security forces were seen near Badjarah. A Reuters correspondent saw one vehicle, doors open and sirens screaming, packed with men clashing bayonet-mounted rifles, racing through the streets.

The men were the so-called "Ninjas" — members of the tough units who operate clad in Balacava-type headgear leaving only their eyes visible.

"We are in the process of getting all the details together and drawing up a communiqué," national security headquarters said. It would give no details.

Residents said earlier they heard sustained gunfire during the curfew clamped on the capital and six nearby provinces in a bid to crush the fundamentalists.

"There was a lot of blood on

the road outside the mosque this morning," said one resident. "There was a lot of shooting in the night and I thought I heard explosions like bombs."

The overnight shooting was the heaviest reported during the curfew since it was imposed on Dec. 5.

Other occasional bursts of gunfire have appeared mainly to have been warning shots as patrols worked to root out fundamentalists blamed for killing more than 90 members of the security forces in the past 10 months.

Killings have, however, continued. Since the curfew, 10 members of the security forces have been gunned down and at least 11 fundamentalists have been killed.

One civilian has also died, shot because two of his sons were policemen.

At least one policeman has voiced his fears that the curfew could backfire.

"During the curfew, if the terrorists hear a vehicle coming they know it must be one of ours. It is easy for them to wait to open fire from the dark," he told a Western diplomat this week.

On Tuesday, local commentators saw the Kouba killings, apparently carried out by five men, as a defiant answer to the Algerian leadership's weekend statement of a "clear improvement in the anti-terrorist struggle."

Le Matin newspaper, commenting on the Kouba killing, said: "A riposte will be coming."

Riots throw Yemeni coalition government into disarray

SANAA (R) — Yemeni Education Minister Mohammad Abdullah Al Jaifi has submitted his resignation in a further sign that last week's price riots have thrown the coalition government into disarray.

Official sources said Mr. Jaifi, a member of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC) party, handed his resignation to the president in protest at the economic management behind the unrest.

Twelve people were killed, 90 injured and hundreds of shops destroyed or looted in the riots in the capital Sanaa and several other towns.

Opposition sources said earlier that Mr. Saleh had rejected a resignation submitted by Prime Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas, a member of the junior coalition partner the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP).

other members of the YSP were also strongly opposed to Mr. Attas's resignation.

Mr. Attas attended Monday a joint meeting of the presidential council and the cabinet Monday and discussed the riots.

State television showed footage of the meeting, which was chaired by Mr. Saleh and attended by Vice-President Ali Salem Al Baidh, who opposition sources said had been in seclusion at home because of differences with the president.

Sanaa Television said the meeting also discussed a report prepared by Mr. Attas on economic reforms to solve the problem of rising prices and improve living standards.

Officials said Mr. Attas planned to raise government salaries, freeze the prices of some essential foodstuffs and support the local currency, the rial, against the dollar.

The television, indirectly refer-

ring to the differences within the ranks of government parties and the opposition, said the joint meeting also discussed means of "consolidating the national political will and consolidating understanding and national reconciliation."



Ali Abdullah Saleh

tion to overcome the problems."

Yemen's parliament held its first session on Monday after a one-month recess and formed a special committee to investigate the riots.

The committee will start work soon after the cabinet stands before parliament Tuesday to report on the riots, parliamentary sources said.

The parliament urged the two ruling parties and all the opposition parties, political organisations and trade unions to sit together to discuss the situation in the country and achieve national reconciliation.

The television said Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi had a telephone conversation with President Saleh to express sorrow over the recent acts of violence.

It said President Saleh told Colonel Qadhafi that "all the conspiracies hatched by the enemies of unity and democracy are doomed to failure."

U.N., Iraq feud over weapons inspections

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq and the United Nations are feuding on several weapons fronts with one Iraqi official threatening to cut off all data on Baghdad's chemical, biological, nuclear and ballistic armaments.

While U.N. inspectors are fairly confident they have destroyed Iraq's war machine, they are lacking documentation on how many chemical or ballistic missiles had been actually fired over the past 10 years and who the suppliers were.

Without such data, the U.N. special commission in charge of destroying Iraq's dangerous weapons will not certify that Baghdad has complied with post Gulf-war Security Council resolutions or recommend sanctions on oil exports be eased.

Frustrated at the ongoing inspections with no end in sight, a senior Iraqi official threatened a chemical and biological weapons inspection team with a complete cut-off of data.

According to documents released to the Security Council, Iraqi General Amer Rashid in talks with U.N. inspector Johan Santesson said the Iraqi people would like to "drink the blood" of the inspectors because they have taken them even more than the U.S. air force that bombed the country during the war.

The commission will "get nothing, nothing more. It is finished, you can bomb us or occupy us, it doesn't matter," Mr. Santesson quoted Gen. Rashid as saying on Dec. 9. Gen. Rashid is head of Iraq's military industries commission and has served as the main negotiator with U.N. inspectors.

According to the papers, the general felt the commission did not give Iraq any credit for compliance to date and "nothing would ever change" no matter what Baghdad did.

For his part, Mr. Santesson, who was leading the 47th U.N. inspection team, mainly on chemical weapons, said: "I'm extremely disappointed and extremely dissatisfied with the outcome of the question-and-answer sessions."

The Iraqi side refuses to acknowledge that it used chemical weapons... they try to wish the munitions away, and that is unacceptable," Mr. Santesson told reporters in Bahrain, where the United Nations maintains a base for its inspections operations.

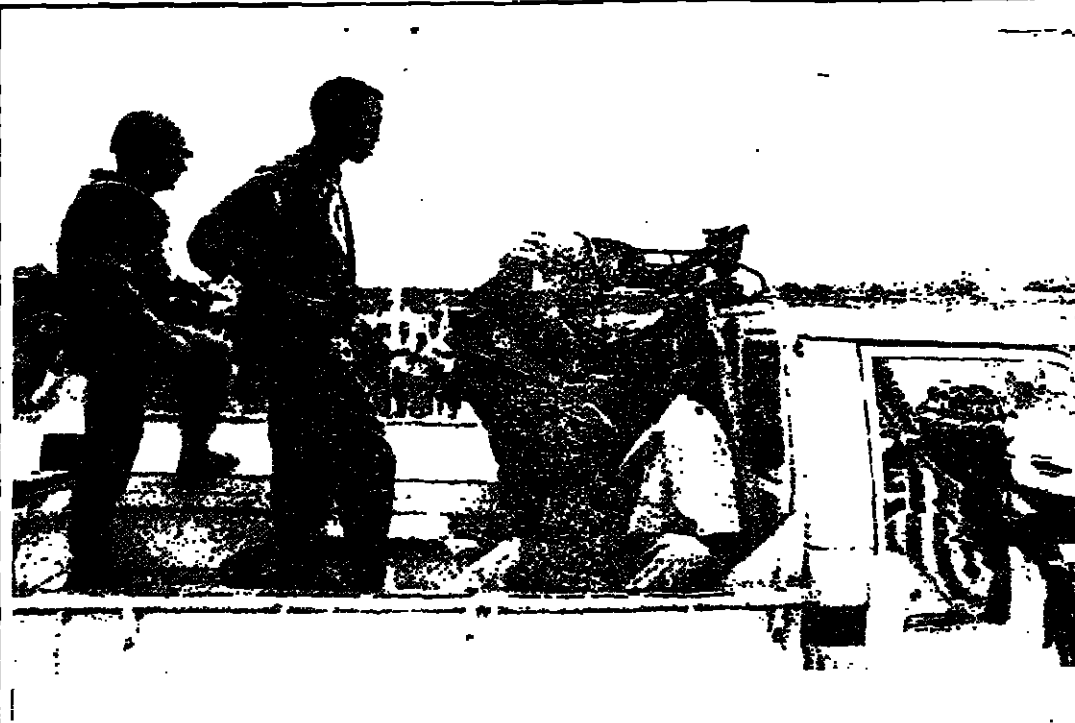
Security Council diplomats, however, said Monday they had not been asked by Rolf Ekeus, head of the commission, to take any action and therefore were not certain of how serious the complaints were.

"There isn't about to be a great row about it," said one envoy. "It isn't hot enough yet for us to be all on alert."

But Pierce Corden, a U.S. deputy to Mr. Ekeus, described Mr. Santesson's encounter as "a serious deterioration" in Iraq's willingness to fulfill its obligations.

Other issues in dispute were: — Iraq's refusal to allow U.N. helicopter surveillance flights over Baghdad, saying they are being used to "gather intelligence information and humiliate the Iraqi people" by flying over President Saddam Hussein's quarters. U.N. sources said inspectors wanted to fly over a suburb of Baghdad.

— Nuclear weapons inspectors on Dec. 6 saw Iraqis carrying out documents that were later returned. But the report said there was no way to verify that the returned papers were the same ones. Iraqi authorities also refused to allow inspectors to copy blueprints for pharmaceutical plants.



'HELP WITH FORCE': Two American Marines remove a heavy machinegun mounted on a "technical" pickup near Mogadishu as part of peace-keeping task led by U.S. soldiers in Somalia. (Right) Marines keep an alert watch for guerrillas as Somalis unload bags of beans in northern Mogadishu (AFP photos)



bags of beans in northern Mogadishu (AFP photos)

40% of Israeli high school pupils hate Arabs — poll

The Jerusalem Post

ONLY A few hours after Knesset education committee chairman MK Avraham Burg retracted his charge that racism here could be compared to that in Germany, the Education Ministry released a four-year-old survey that showed 40 per cent of high school pupils expressing hatred of Arabs.

The survey, conducted for the ministry by the Israel Institute for Military Studies in the spring of 1988, polled 5,400 pupils in grades 10-12, in all types of schools except those for haredim and minorities.

It examined their attitudes towards the army and being drafted, sources of influence and general values.

The feeling of hatred towards Arabs was one of the few areas in which there was an increase compared to previous years, according to the survey.

The pupils were asked, "Do you hate Arabs?" Among secular pupils, 28 per cent in academic institutions answered "Yes, all," or "Yes, most."

Fifty per cent of respondents in vocational schools agreed, as did 10 per cent in kibbutzim and 25 per cent in moshavim.

Among state-religious pupils, 50 per cent of pupils in academic schools, 75 per cent in vocational schools, 31 per cent in kibbutzim, and 53 per cent in moshavim, answered affirmatively to the question.

In other areas, the study showed a general high degree of patriotism and desire to remain in Israel, a positive attitude towards the IDF and motivation to serve in battle units, a wide spectrum of political views regarding the Palestinian problem, and a general feeling of danger due to terrorism and the possibility of war.

Education Minister Shulamit Aloni said yesterday that in view of these figures, and the uproar over the survey commissioned by Mr. Burg, the ministry planned to hire an independent company to conduct an additional, more thorough survey, regarding attitudes towards foreigners and, in particular, Arabs.

In his statement yesterday, Mr. Burg was reacting to a radio interview in which Dori Shadmon of Teleser, who carried out the survey commissioned by the Knesset committee, criticised what he described as Burg's misleading interpretation of the data.

Shadmon said the survey actually showed most Israelis oppose "transfer" and object to violent reactions against Arabs. The problem, Shadmon said, was not in the survey, which had been carried out scientifically, but in the interpretation.

Mr. Burg replied that the fact that 60 per cent of those questioned felt there was racism in Israel indicated this is a serious phenomenon in Israeli society. And while two-thirds of the public expressed loyalty to Israeli democracy, one had to be concerned that one-third did not.

Rights group assails crackdown in Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt's main human rights group said Monday that a crackdown on Muslim militants would score temporary successes but could never stop political violence.

"These security crackdowns lead to temporary results. They achieve successes, but they are temporary ones," Hassan Bahaeddine, chairman of the Egyptian Organisation of Human Rights (EOHR), told Reuters in an interview.

He said the government was inciting an unprecedented wave of violence by Muslim militants with counterproductive policies.

A security sweep by 12,000 Egyptian security forces against suspected Muslim militants last week in the Cairo slum district of Imbaba would fuel more violence, he added.

"If we think that the security crackdowns, the massive sweep and arrests in Imbaba and Upper Egypt will solve the problem we will be kidding ourselves," Mr. Bahaeddine said.

Government forces have arrested more than 600 suspects in the security operation which began in Imbaba last Tuesday.

The security forces cannot keep those people in jail forever. They cannot liquidate them either. One day, these people will come out of prison more violent because of torture... and the cycle of violence will be renewed.

"There are now hundreds of militants in jails, but outside prisons hundreds of thousands are ready to replace them," Mr. Bahaeddine added.

He said the best approach would be for the state to revive the economy and revise its education and media policies.

"The government must eliminate the reasons which lead to the formation of violent groups, otherwise the extremist tide will grow," he said.

He said human rights in Egypt deteriorated in 1992 and violence between militants and security forces increased.

More than 72 people including one British tourist have been killed in the violence. In one incident last May, militants killed 13 Christian Copts in Upper Egypt.

Muslim extremists have threatened to attack foreign tourists and embassies in Cairo unless the government calls off the massive crackdown on them, a police official said Monday.

The threats were made in anti government leaflets distributed in southern Egypt, said the police official. Some of the leaflets were seized with an extremist leader arrested Sunday in Assiut, 320 kilometres south of Cairo.

The Islamic militants, who want to turn secular Egypt into an Iran-style theocracy by force, began targeting foreign tourists last summer to embarrass the government internationally and weaken it by striking at its top foreign currency earner.

In response, the government launched the largest crackdown on Muslim extremists since one that followed the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat and an attempt to overthrow the government. Both were blamed on extremists.

Some 14,000 policemen participated in a security operation that began last Tuesday in Imbaba, a poor and overcrowded neighbourhood.

At least 664 suspected extremists were arrested, including 51 who were security forces said about 150 of them were subsequently cleared and freed.

The police official in Assiut said that an extremist cell leader, Ali Wany Hassan Bekheet, fled the crackdown in Imbaba and went to his home village near Assiut, where he was arrested Sunday.

Property prices soar in Iraq as dinar tumbles

BAGHDAD (R) — The falling dinar and the sharp rise in the cost of building materials under the U.N. embargo have pushed up house and land prices in Iraq.

Those who still have plenty of dinars are putting them into property quickly before they lose any more of their value.

"It's a logical idea," said Raad Abed of Al Sharq property agents in Baghdad's middle-class Mansour district.

"You can't lose if you buy a house, particularly in Baghdad. Only people from Baghdad are allowed to buy here, there's a limited supply and it's always a good investment."

A 600-square house with four bedrooms, sold for 320,000 dinars before the war, is now going for three million.

One half the size, sold for 160,000 before the war, fetched 470,000 three months ago.

Land which sold for 500 to 750 dinars a square metre before the war is now going for 2,000.

Iraq has no index for inflation and it is almost impossible to make meaningful conversion into dollars. The dinar is officially worth \$3.10 but changes hands on the black market at around 30 to the dollar.

Estate agents interviewed in Mansour Monday said many of their customers were merchants.

"Some people are making a lot of money under the embargo so they can afford to pay higher prices," said property dealer Abdul Kader Ayash.

"We don't ask where they get the money; that's for the tax office to ask," said another agent, who gave his name as Abu Salah.

He said he was also seeing some clients wanting to sell their homes and move into a smaller house to raise some money.

The embargo has brought hardship rather than profit to the majority. Half the shops in Mansour are shuttered, other half empty. Shop shelves emptied overnight last week when a ban on importing some consumer items came into effect.

Abu Salah said some traders forced out of their existing businesses were apparently considering a move into real estate and had come round to ask about prices.

"They were shocked when they discovered how high the prices are," he said.

The estate agents said many young people who three years ago would have married and moved into a home of their own can no longer afford to leave their parents.

Housing is only one problem. Furniture and household items are also hugely expensive and many imported goods have been removed from sale.

Many young people are opting not to marry and Iraqis say that, among those who do, the divorce rate is rising because of the strain on couples living with one or other set of parents.

Syria said refusing exit visas to Jews

WASHINGTON (AP) — Syria has refused to issue exit permits to Jews wishing to leave the country, U.S. officials said Monday.

Syria, under strong U.S. pressure, started granting exit visas to members of the country's tiny Jewish community last April.

Some 2,600 Syrian Jews received exit papers, reported the newspaper Washington Jewish Week. The paper, which first reported the halt in exit permits last Friday, said some 1,400 other Jews remain in Syria.

State Department officials say that of those, about 400 want to stay.

U.S. Ambassador Christopher Ross has asked Syrian officials several times to explain the halt in exit permits, said one U.S. official. The Syrians insist they have not changed their policy on allowing Jews to leave, but have not explained further, said the official who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Another official said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad appears to want to hold the Jews as a card to play with the incoming Clinton administration.

Yemen teachers suspend strike

ADEN, Yemen (R) — Teachers in southern Yemen on Tuesday suspended a three-week-old strike after failing to persuade the government to give them a 100 per cent pay rise.

The teachers' union said in a statement the strike was suspended in the interests of the students and to give the government a chance to reconsider meeting their demands.

The teachers went on strike on Nov. 23.

The strike was not effective in the northern part of Yemen because the union is loyal to the Yemen Socialist Party, which ruled former South Yemen before unity in 1990.

Twelve people died in four days of riots last week to protest at soaring prices fuelled by 100 per cent annual inflation.

Iran dismisses EC criticism on rights

NICOSIA (R) — Iran brushed aside European concern at its arms build-up and human rights record Monday and said its call for the killing of British novelist Salman Rushdie was irrevocable.

Iran's official news agency IRNA said a declaration issued by the 12 European Community (EC) leaders at a summit in Edinburgh Sunday condemning the death order showed their ignorance of Islam.

EC member countries have generally good relations with Tehran, Germany and Italy are Iran's biggest trade partners through Japan.

"Four years after the late leader imam (Ayatollah Ruhollah) Khomeini issued his historical fat-

Israeli president to visit China next week

PEKING (R) — Israeli President Chaim Herzog will pay an official visit to China next week, state television reported Monday.

Herzog, the most senior Israeli official to ever come to China, will visit from Dec. 24 to Dec. 30 at the invitation of Chinese Premier Yang Shangkun, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement by the CCTV network. It gave no further details. China and Israel have established diplomatic relations in January when then-Minister David Levy visited Peking. Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen visited Israel in September, the first senior Chinese leader to do so.

Rabin thanks King Hassan for remains of Jews

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, attending reinterment of 22 Moroccan Jews who died 31 years ago in Israel, thanked Moroccan King Hassan II Monday for sending remains.

"In the name of the families, the government and citizens of the state of Israel, we today express thanks to Hassan II of Morocco," Mr. Rabin said at the ceremony. Appreciation is given for this profound humanitarian step by the king of Morocco.

The 22, whose remains arrived in Israel Wednesday, were among 43 Jews who drowned as they sought emigrate covertly from Morocco to Israel aboard a ship named Egoz.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Les Ateliers du Reve
19:00 News in French
19:15 News in Arabic
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 Saved by the Bell
21:00 Spotlight
21:30 James Randa
22:00 News in English
22:30 The Court Breakout

PRAYER TIMES

06:51 Fajr
06:53 Sunrise
11:31 Dhuhr
14:15 Asr
16:38 Maghrib
18:08 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifield, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
United International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824, 649322
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675991

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be cold, cloudy and rainy, with snow expected to fall on high mountains with an elevation of more than 1,000 metres above sea level. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy and rainy at times, while winds will be southwesterly fresh.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 01/5
Aqaba 10/15

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

DEPARTURES

Jordan Valley 7/12
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 7, Aqaba 18 Humidity readings: Amman 98 per cent, Aqaba 44 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Arafat Al Ashtab 683989
Dr. Raif Zaytoon 888085
Dr. Mohammad Lubad 683585
Dr. Zeln Zaghoul 638591
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 78336
Al Azzam pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 623670
Yacoub pharmacy 648945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Loufi Al Shalabi 241798
Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih 986871
Khalifa pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630221
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 610230
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 688010
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-33200
Queens Alia Intl. Airport 08-33200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussain Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Madhus, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abjad 6661277
Al-Ahli, Abjad 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674153
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)905660
Jon Sima Hospital (09)986732
Al Hizza Modern Hospital (09)999598
IRBID:
Princess Beaza Hospital (02)273555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Ibn Al Hafes Hospital (02)27100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:08 Aden (RJ)
05:15 Athens (RJ)
05:45 Rome (RJ)
05:55 Berlin, London (RJ)
06:05 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
06:15 Istanbul (RJ)
06:25 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
06:35 Colombo (RJ)
06:45 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
06:55 Riyadh (RJ)
07:05 New Delhi (RJ)
07:15 London (RJ)
07:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
07:35 Istanbul (RJ)
07:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
07:55 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
08:05 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
08:15 Rome (RJ)
08:25 Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:05 Dubai (AZ)
07:15 Karachi (PI)
09:35 Cairo (MS)
10:30 Jeddah (SU)
10:35 Sanaa (YU)
12:00 Damascus (PI)
18:10 Paris, Damascus (AF)
18:30 Vienna, Larnaca (OS)
19:50 Beirut (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:08 Aden (RJ)
05:15 Athens (RJ)
05:45 Rome (RJ)
05:55 Berlin, London (RJ)
06:05 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
06:15 Istanbul (RJ)
06:25 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
06:35 Colombo (RJ)
06:45 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
06:55 Riyadh (RJ)
07:05 New Delhi (RJ)
07:15 London (RJ)
07:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
07:35 Istanbul (RJ)
07:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
07:55 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
08:05 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
08:15 Rome (RJ)
08:25 Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:25 Rome (AZ)
06:45 Damascus (PI)

MARKET PRICES

Upsetter price in \$/lb
Apples 70
Bananas 50
Bananas (Mukamas) 50
Bananas (small) 50
Cabbages 120
Carrots 120
Cauliflower 200
Cauliflowers (large) 200
Cauliflowers (small) 200
Eggplants 200
Garlic 200
Grapes 200
Lemons 200
Marrow (large) 200
Marrow (small) 200
Onions (dry) 200
Onions (green) 200
Oranges 200
Pepper (hot) 200
Pepper (sweet) 200
Spinach 200
Tomato 200
Potatoes 200
Mint 200
Green Olive 200

مَكْدَانِ الْأَصْل

Home News

S. Congressman happy about King's health

WASHINGTON (Petra) — A member of the U.S. Congress, Hamilton, Tuesday expressed joy over the results of the tests which His Majesty Hussein underwent in the last week.

On his part, Dr. Majali briefed Mr. Hamilton on Jordan's position on the peace process. He briefed the U.S. Congressman on his assessment of the outcome of the eight rounds of negotiations and the role he envisages for the U.S. as a co-sponsor of the peace conference. He affirmed that all stages of the peace process are inter-related at both the multi-lateral and bilateral levels.

Parliament hears farmers' demands in the south

AMMAN (Petra) — Members of the House of Representatives Tuesday listened to complaints and demands of local farmers. The session was presided over by the director of the agricultural station, Dr. Khaled Nawaish.

The session was attended by the director of the agricultural station, Dr. Khaled Nawaish, and the director of the agricultural station, Dr. Khaled Nawaish.

The session was attended by the director of the agricultural station, Dr. Khaled Nawaish, and the director of the agricultural station, Dr. Khaled Nawaish.



PRINCESS AISHA OPENS AL HUSSEIN CHARITY BAZAAR: Her Royal Highness Princess Aisha Bint Al Hussein opened at the Marriott Hotel Tuesday a charity bazaar of Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped. The bazaar in which 18 Arab and foreign embassies are participating includes handicrafts, woodwork, a variety of food and embroidery. The opening ceremony was attended by Princess Majda Ra'ad who is chairperson of the society and several diplomats. The proceeds of the bazaar will be used to support the society's activities.

Ensur discusses investment and privatisation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Members of the Jordanian Businessmen Association JBA Tuesday called on Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour to discuss matters related to investments in Jordan.

A statement by the JBA said that the discussion focused on a draft law on encouraging investments in the Kingdom and the involvement of public as well as private investors.

The group, led by the association's president Mamdouh Abu Hassan, reviewed the private sector's contributions towards bolstering the national economy, and addressed means of stimulating investments in industry and trade.

Crime rate inching upwards — PSD chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director-General Fadel Ali Tuesday urged the higher committee for combating crime in Jordan to double its efforts in the face of increasing crimes.

"You are called on to exert efforts more than any time in the past in order to confront the negative aspects that have started cropping up in our society as a result of the socio-economic changes in the region," Major General Ali said in an address to the committee members.

Education ministry criticised for record on gifted students

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Al Hindawi said Tuesday that the Ministry of Education lacks a well-defined strategy to cater for the needs of gifted students in Jordan.

In a meeting with graduate students at the University of Jordan, Mr. Hindawi said existing special education schools were unable to meet the needs of gifted or talented students because they need huge financial resources to pay for curricula, textbooks, qualified teachers and other school facilities.

Are we prepared for winter?

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With winter here one wonders whether the vicious cycle of damp and leaking walls will start once again. Few buildings were left untouched by the effects of the harsh snow and rain storms that hit Jordan last year; residences collapsed, structural damage was incurred and water pipes burst.

According to Dr. Seyfiddin Muaz, director of the Building Research Centre at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the problem begins when contractors, architects, supervisors and even clients are willing to economize on their budget at the cost of a building's safety. "A client would like a spacious house or building without having to pay much. The architect faces great competition and so tries to sell a design for a cheap price. During construction, supervisors do not appear at the site although they are paid to supervise, and some contractors try to escape quality control regulations by taking short cuts that will ensure financial gain," he explained. These factors add up to unsafe building work and the problem that hit many homes last year.

Regent voices support for Arab writers

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, called for the promotion of Arab culture during a meeting Tuesday with writers attending the Eighteenth Arab Writers Conference at the University of Jordan.

"We are yearning to listen to the Arab word, to Arab thoughts," he said, "we have to look seriously for means to im-

prove the only resource we possess: Arab thought."

Prince Hassan criticised what he described as the "considerable deficiency that exists in the coverage (by the media) of highly important studies and researches conducted by professors and scientists in the Arab world" such as in the Al Bait institution.

'Intellectuals and the regime' debated

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The nature of the relationship between intellectuals and the regime was the central issue discussed in a two-hour seminar held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in the second day of the Arab Writers Conference, Monday evening.

Voicing the need for the establishment of an Arab institution for publication and distribution, Arab writers expressed their desire to the Regent for the implementation of such a project which would be financed by Arab funds and has full autonomy. They also pointed to the number of copies of any book printed in the Arab world which normally does not exceed 5,000 and at the highest level 10,000 copies.

Prince Hassan strongly supported the ideas and said that this "forum should be an Arab institution that is independent not only in the financial aspect but also in the cultural one. It should promote objectivity, and respect all opinions."

Arab writers lamented the crisis between intellectuals and the people and in particular the lack



The Crown Prince surveys Arab literature Tuesday at the University of Jordan (Petra photo)

of communication between both parties. They said that the origin of the problem is mainly due to the education system and its incapacity to rear creative and intellectual individuals.

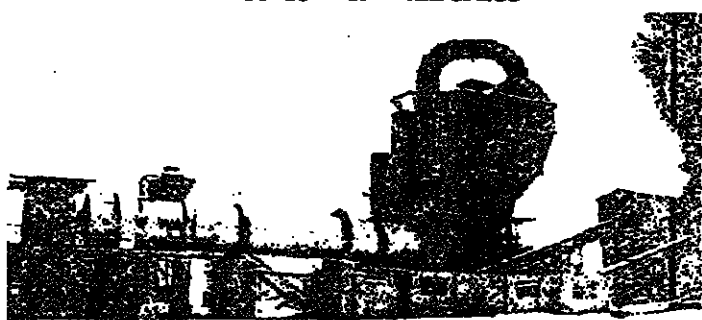
Prince Hassan suggested that student, during their first years, should be encouraged to confront and conduct intellectual dialogue without fear. But he asked, "how can we adapt education to be able to serve the purposes and objectives of the society?"

JPMC signs deals with Malaysia, Taiwan, holds talks with Indonesia and India

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) has concluded deals to sell more phosphate to Malaysia and Taiwan in the coming year, according to an announcement made by Mr. Taher Al Taher the JPMC director general.

Mr. Taher returned Tuesday from a tour of the Far East and Asia to find new markets for the state-owned company.

"In Indonesia we discussed with the country's Ministry of Industry the prospect of launching joint Jordanian-Indonesian industrial projects based on phosphate," said Mr. Taher in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. He said that the Jordanian delegation attended a regional conference in Jakarta on fertilisers in which countries producing and exporting phosphate, potash and fertilisers participated.



Dryer with electrostatic precipitator filter at Rusafa mine — the site for the joint Indian-Jordanian project

He did say, however, that 80 per cent of Taiwan's phosphate imports come from Jordan. The country has imported nearly 267,000 tonnes of Jordanian phosphate so far this year he said.

In Malaysia, Mr. Taher signed deals to export up to 150,000 tonnes during 1993.

Mr. Taher and his delegation also went to India to attend an annual meeting by the Indian Fertilisers Society in New Delhi which was attended by potash, phosphate and fertiliser producers in Asia.

India is the main importer of Jordanian phosphate and this year it has imported 1,167,510 tonnes of the mineral, according to Mr. Taher. Jordan and India last year reached an agreement on the production of phosphoric acid at the Shedihi phosphate mines in southern Jordan. Under the agreement, India will invest \$15 million while the JPMC will provide \$10 million to develop the project. The plant, expected to be operational by the end of 1993, is being set up in an area designated as a free zone.

If We Take So Much Care
With The Service
Imagine Our Cuisine...



Andalusia Restaurant
For Luscious Lunches, Divine Dinners
and jaunty jazz

For reservations call 674111



AMMAN PLAZA

Your Business Is Our Pleasure

Now available in Jordan

HIN BED WARMERS HIN

100% Cotton

Austrian made to the European Standards.
Energy saving. 20-58 watts.
Attractive design.
For rheumatic diseases.
Different sizes and colours.

Also Available Footwarmers
Back/Neck warmers.

Sole Agent
CHANNEL

Tel. 682638 Fax 603641

Now Available at **SAFEWAY**

For Somalis, respite from hunger means a chance to regain independence

By Tina Sasman
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU — Abdi Osman remembers last good meal as if it were yesterday, even though it was months ago: Millet and k. shared with his wife and children on the peaceful or where they raised yels, sheep and pigs. Not a king's banquet, but a it compared to the porge and biscuits Osman s on now in a Mogadishu e camp. The best part, Osman, was he did not e to stand in line like a ild to get food.

Watching the armoured personnel carriers rumbling along the streets and the low-flying Marine choppers, hundreds of thousands of Somalis like Osman wait for the day Operation Restore Hope gives them back their self-sufficiency.

On his farm in the town of Walawein, southwest of Mogadishu, Osman recalled not having to depend on others. Now he must rely on foreign charity.

Relief agencies say ending this cycle of dependence is a key to making their efforts successful. One proposed mission is to supply refugees,

mainly farmers, with clothes, shelter, grain and tools so they can return to their homes and care for themselves.

United Nations spokesman Ian Macleod said the relief workers hope to get "many hundreds of thousands of people" to return to their homes before the spring rainy season in March and April. This would give them time to plant crops for the July harvest, a major step towards ending their need for donated food.

The U.S. troops who swooped across the city

Wednesday have made clear they would not be moving into places like Osman's hometown for some time, until they are sure the clan militias that drove out the

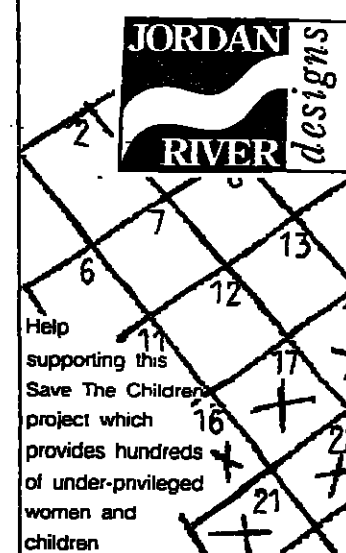
Somalis could not attack them.

It is a situation that frustrates relief workers who have lost most of their food to looters.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

4 FLATS IN 1 DELUXE BUILDING FOR RENT. IN A QUIET AREA NEAR ROYAL AUTOMOBILE CLUB EA. COMPOSED OF 2 BDRMS, 2 BATHS, LIVING RM, GUEST RM, & KITCHEN W/CLOSETS CENTRAL HEATING, CENTRAL ANTENNA, PREFER SINGLE LEASE TO A DIPLOMATIC MISSION
TEL. 810572/696121, 10:00-13:00

MARK YOUR CALENDERS....



We'll be holding our annual CHRISTMAS BAZAAR from

Dec 16th - 23rd at the Philadelphia Hotel

from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

An assortment of more

than 120 items of uniquely

handcrafted products & designs.

OUR SALE SPECIALS WILL CONTINUE!

For more information, please call 628760

Peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

with a 19-page compilation the ideas it had put forth in negotiations until now. It used possible alternatives sought to calm Palestinian about an Israeli proposal for governing authority in the Bank and Gaza Strip, an official said.

another front, Lebanese diators turned down an if proposal for a joint milit-working group with Israel to ss tensions along the border een the two countries, an official said. Israel had uring Lebanon to consider ea for the last two months. sident George Bush, in a eep the momentum going, invited the delegates to the e House Thursday at the end eir current round of talks.

Majali

(Continued from page 1)

Arab National Democratic ace (IANDA) — in the next ions, Mr. Majali said some rist parties should unite in alition if not merge into a e party.

have been accused of want- n a personality cult in- f a party, but this is not the e have in the past and y call with more urgency ver on all centrist parties to a coalition," he told the e.

led if he thought that a ealition would exist de- the refusal by the Ministry zior to grant legal status to ordaniam Communist Party the Arab Baath Socialist r. Majali said: "Yes, I there will be a leftist coali- it may not include all groups to have party status, but will be a coalition neverthe-

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said she hoped the president would, as one of his last official acts in office, set a precedent for the Clinton administration by convening a three-way meeting with the Israelis and Palestinians to break the stalemate in their talks.

Israeli officials were chagrined to hear that among the Palestinians planning to attend the White House meeting are two advisers to the delegation — Dr. Ashrawi and Faisal Hussein.

Inviting people who are not delegates is "violating the rules of the game," said one Israeli official.

An administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a compromise was in the works whereby Dr. Ashrawi would join the meeting with Mr. Bush but Mr. Hussein would instead meet with White House Chief of Staff James Baker Friday.

Dr. Ashrawi said she was disappointed that Mr. Bush was only allotting 20 minutes to his meeting with each delegation. "We hoped the meeting would be one of substance, not a symbolic one," she said.

Palestine Liberation Organisa-

tion (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat is sending Mr. Bush a message urging him to press Israel to be more forthcoming in peace talks, a PLO official said Tuesday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Dr. Abdul Shafi would hand the message to Mr. Bush.

The message from the PLO chairman also appeals to Mr. Bush to restore a U.S.-PLO dialogue, which was broken off in June 1990 after 18 months because the PLO failed to condemn a guerrilla attack on Israeli beaches.

Dr. Abdul Shafi will ask Mr. Bush to press Israel to be more forthcoming and press ahead with a settlement based on land for peace, the PLO official said.

On Monday the Israeli newspaper Haaretz said Israel had rejected an offer by the United States to draw up a compromise plan for an interim Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

The paper said the offer was made by Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian to the Israeli team before the beginning of the current round of the talks in Washington on Dec. 7.

Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

French media said that differences between the United States and France over disarming the gunmen threatened to wreck the relief operation.

Several French newspapers said the work of the U.N. forces in Somalia was threatened by a dispute between France, backed by Dr. Ghali, and Washington over whether to disarm the gunmen.

The French foreign ministry said disarming the warring factions was part of the U.N. mandate, which called for the crea-

tion of a secure environment for the relief operation.

President George Bush assured his top military leaders Monday their mission in Somalia has not changed and praised them for doing "a first class job" in handling the unprecedented relief mission.

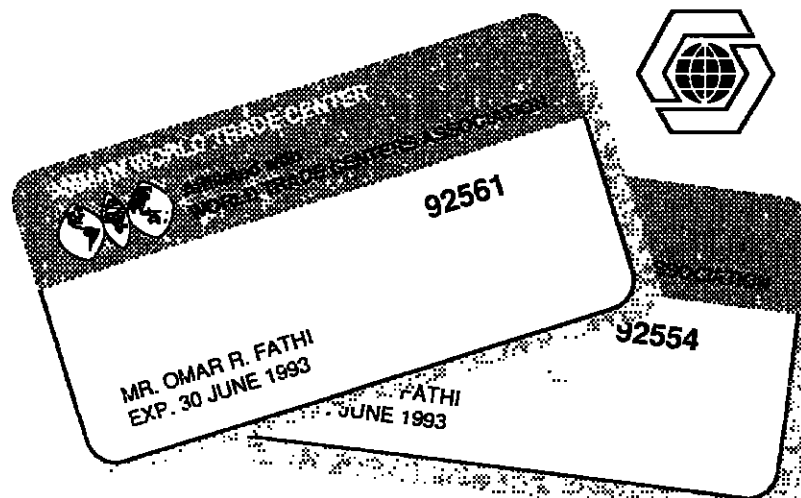
Mr. Bush drove to the Pentagon Monday for an hour-long briefing attended by the entire Joint Chiefs of Staff, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, and other members of his national security team.

"They're doing a first class job," the president told reporters as he left the military headquarters.

NOW THAT YOU ARE A MEMBER AT THE AMMAN WORLD TRADE CENTER YOU HAVE ACCESS TO BECOMING GLOBAL IN YOUR BUSINESS WITHOUT LEAVING YOUR OFFICE.

SO IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER YET....

STOP BY US.



INTERNET

Aqaba Inn

Apartotel

wo bedrooms, lounge, living room, kitchen. Idyllic sea views.
Call Aqaba tel.: 03/313512, fax: 03/314338.

TO SUIT ALL BUDGETS
VILLA FOR RENT & LOTS OF FLATS, WITH OR WITHOUT FURNITURE

JORDAN PROPERTY CONSULTANTS
Tel: 829882/829883

Just Opened
NAWADER
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Leading Design Company
SEEKING:
Qualified architects, interior designers and foremen
Only experienced candidates need apply by sending C.V. and photograph to:
P.O.Box 811764, Amman-Jordan

THE PROFESSIONALS
ALWAYS CHOOSE
THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT
FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
TEL: 604676 604696
P.O. BOX 7806 AMMAN

CROWN

INT'L EST.

Packing, shipping, forwarding, storage, clearing, door-to-door service
Air, Sea and Land

Agents all over the world
Tel: 664090
Fax: 690852
P.O. Box 92647 Amman

KAIS CENTRE FOR QUICK SERVICES
YOUR BEST CHOICE
IN JORDAN...

* Kais Dryclean, 1 Hr. Service
* Shoes repair * Engraving
* Keys Service
* Upholstry, curtains & carpets cleaning
6 Branches at YOUR Service
Mecca Street, behind Plaza Hut, phone 821656, Fax 82163

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get-

* JUMBO photo size 30% larger
* Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank, Phone: 604042
Swefish tel: 823891

Car-Rental

Pick up-delivery

8:00 - 24:00

Europcar
674111
Amman Plaza

MANDARIN RESTAURANT

Special Chinese Foods
Skilled Chinese Chefs

Open 11:30-3:30 & 6:00-11:30 daily
Take away is available
Wadi Saqra Road
near Philadelphia Hotel
Tel: 651822, Amman
Once Tasted Always Loved

Kashmir Restaurant

FIRST CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT
Special Executive Luncheons
Take away service available

Open Daily 12:30-3:30 pm
7:30-11:30 pm
After the Philadelphia Hotel
Towards 3rd circle
Tel: 659519 659520

CHINA RESTAURANT

AQABA
CHINESE FOOD

Open daily
12:00 - 15:00 & 18:30 - 23:30
Tel: 03 - 314415

PEKING RESTAURANT

AUTHENTIC CHINESE CUISINE
elegant colorful atmosphere
now open daily

shmeisani - tel. 660150
now open daily

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk
Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket
Mongolian Barbeque for Lunch Friday only
Tel: 818214
Come and taste our specialties
Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan
1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahlyyah Girls School
Take away is available
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
7:00 - Midnight
Tel: 638968

Trio Krisola

AL KHATMA BAR
830 pm - 120 am

French Cuisine

RESERVATION
TEL 819564

Apartment For Reent

Super deluxe apartment for rent. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, big living area, 300 sq. metres.
Location: Swefish.
Price: US\$23,000
For further details call:
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel. 810605/810609/810520

China Town Restaurant

Every great city in the world has its China Town and Amman now has its own.
Where you can enjoy the most exquisite Chinese dishes for lunch and dinner.
Banquet and take away service
All chefs from Peking, China
at the Amman Plaza Hotel
Tel. 674295 or 674111 - ext. 6338

The First Class Hotel in Amman

that has a Kitchenette in every room...!
DAROTEL
Amman - Tel. 668193
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434
Telex 23888 DAROTL JO
Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

JORDAN EXPRESS TOURIST TRANSPORT

announces its new service
AMMAN - AIRPORT - AMMAN
with its modern air-conditioned buses.
Departure every half an hour from either Abdali Bus Station or JETT Headquarters.
Fare: 750 fils per trip.
Enquiries: 664146

Bowe gives up WBC title

Lewis named heavyweight champion

MEXICO CITY (R) — The world boxing council (WBC) named Britain's Lennox Lewis world heavyweight champion Monday.

"The WBC is today officially recognising Lennox Lewis as the WBC heavyweight champion of the world after Riddick Bowe's announcement of today in London ... relinquishing his title," the Mexico city-based WBC said in a statement.

"Lennox Lewis holds now the honour of taking back to his country, England, the heavyweight championship of the world after 110 years."

Bowe, who also holds the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation heavyweight titles, said earlier Monday he was relinquishing his WBC title rather than be forced to fight Lewis as the WBC requires.

He underlined his point at a London news conference by taking the WBC champion's belt out of a briefcase and dumping it in a garbage can.

"The WBC is wrong and I will not be intimidated by them. I am the heavyweight champion of the world and today I withdraw my recognition of the WBC," he said.

"For as long as I am champion I will not recognise or defend this dishonest belt," he added.

The WBC had threatened to strip Bowe of his title if he did not make a mandatory defence against Lewis, winner of a heavyweight title eliminator against Canada's Donovan Razor Ruddock in October.

Bowe won the unified heavyweight title by outpointing then-unbeaten champion Evander Holyfield in Las Vegas last month.

The WBC said Bowe had signed an agreement to fight the winner of the Ruddock-Lewis fight but would now clearly not honour it.

"It is today apparent that Bowe signed his commitment with no desire to comply with it," the WBC statement said. "No statement can hide that Bowe committed himself in writing to fight Lewis and reneged on it."

Describing statements against the WBC by Bowe and his manager Rock Newman in London as "bitter and greedy," the boxing organisation added:

"The WBC belt thrown into the trash bin ... has been won with dignity and pride by Muhammad Ali, Larry Holmes and Mike Tyson ... the WBC is sure that Lennox Lewis will carry (it) with dignity and pride just as the great of the past have done."

The WBC's arithmetic aside,

the decision makes Lewis the first British world heavyweight champion since Bob Fitzsimmons in 1897.

Meanwhile newly crowned WBC heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis said he was disappointed that he won't be facing rival Riddick Bowe in the ring in the immediate future.

"I will miss the glory of beating him in the ring," Lewis said in a local radio interview. "But I will still be the champion."

The new champion said he believed Bowe was afraid to fight him because he defeated the American on his way to winning the gold at the 1988 Olympics.

Lewis said he ranked Bowe among the best heavyweight fighters today, but he was "confident" he would beat Bowe again if the two squared off. "I'm the better fighter," he said.

Brazil to face Germany

with makeshift defence

PORTO ALGRE, Brazil (R) — Brazil face the ominous prospect of taking on world champions Germany with a makeshift defence in a friendly international Wednesday.

Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira has been plagued by late withdrawals and doubts for the match, Germany's first on a South American tour they see as instrumental in forming the basis of a team to defend the World Cup in the United States in 1994.

Roma defender Aldair pulled out of the squad Monday after sustaining an injury during a weekend Italian League game.

Paris St. Germain's Ricardo Gomes, who was expected to partner Aldair at the heart of the defence, was also in doubt following the death of his father.

The problems left Brazil with the frightening prospect of facing Germany with the internationally inexperienced pair of Celso Silva and Paulo as centre backs.

To add to Parreira's problems, hard-tackling midfielder Dunga also pulled out injured while Genoa left-back Branco is doubtful.

Roberto Carlos of Uniao Sao Joao of Porto Alegre side Internacional and Luisinho of Vasco Da Gama were called in as last minute replacements.

In contrast, the Germans have brought a virtually full-strength squad.

The Germans, who meet Urugu-

ay in Montevideo Sunday, are anxious to find a new striking partner for Juergen Klinsmann following the retirement from international football of former first choice Rudi Voeller.

Their other big question is whether 1990 World Cup captain Lothar Matthaus can regain his best form after the serious knee injury that kept him out of this year's European Championship.

Neither Parreira nor German trainer Bert Vogts were giving anything away about their teams for Wednesday.

Parreira, who has gone a long way towards restoring Brazil's credibility in international soccer since taking over last year, said he was unlikely to field Romario, Careca and Bebeto together in attack.

Brazilian fans have long believed the trio, all prolific goalscorers when on song, could form a deadly strike force.

But Parreira told Reuters he had virtually discarded the idea.

"You don't become offensive just by playing with three forwards," he said. "On paper, it looks wonderful but it could leave the team vulnerable in midfield."

"It's going to be a great game. I'm an admirer of German football for its organisation and the quality of the players."

"But we have gone back to playing the Brazilian way. Our game is based on technique which is our strength."

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Al Orthodoxy crush Al Abbasi 179-44

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Orthodoxy scored a big win of 179-44 over Al Abbasi while third placed Al Jalil lost 88-86 to Al Jazireh in the First Division Basketball Championship. In other matches Al Watani overcame Homentmen 78-72 while Al Ahli beat Al Hussein 95-58.

Simone included in Italy World Cup squad

ROME (R) — Striker Marco Simone, who has made only one full League appearance for Milan this season, has been included in Italy's 21-strong squad for Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Malta. Simone, scorer of Milan's second goal in their European Cup semifinal League victory over Dutch Club PSV Eindhoven last week, is one of nine Milan players in the squad announced Monday for the European Group One tie in Ta'qali. Team manager Arrigo Sacchi has left out experienced Sampdoria defender Pietro Vierchowod in favour of Parma's Luigi Apolloni. Juventus striker Roberto Baggio is missing from the squad because of injury.

Knicks beat Nuggets 106-89

NEW YORK (AP) — Charles Smith scored 23 points and John Starks and Rolando Blackman each added 17 as the New York Knicks beat Denver 106-89, holding the Nuggets almost 19 points below their season average. New York, which has won nine of its last 12 games, improved to 11-1 at home, the best in the National Basketball Association. Denver finished 0-5 on a 10-day road trip. Blackman, averaging eight points per game, notched a season-high with his 17 points.

Allison in charge of Rovers until end of season

BRISTOL (R) — Malcolm Allison, the much travelled manager of English First Division club Bristol Rovers, will remain in charge at the club at least until the end of the season. Rovers extended their unbeaten run to four matches with a crushing 4-0 victory over Bristol City Sunday to move further clear of the relegation zone. Allison is a former manager of English clubs Crystal Palace and Manchester City as well as Sporting Lisbon and Farense in Portugal.

Bologna lead in Italian Basketball League

MILAN (AP) — American guard Pace Mannion pumped in 28 points as he led clear Cantu to a 96-80 upset of defending champion Benetton Treviso in the 13th round of the Italian Basketball League. The home victory lifted Cantu to second place in the overall standings, in a tie with Treviso and Panasonic Reggio Calabria with 18 points. The three teams, all with 9-4 records, trail league leader Knorr Bologna by four points. Former Los Angeles Laker guard Terry Teagle and Croatian forward Toni Kukoc each scored 15 points for Treviso. Bologna defeated Robedikappa Turin 90-72.



U.S. tennis player John McEnroe looks at a 6 kg hamburger that was given to him in Linz, Austria, where he was due to play Austrian Thomas Muster in an exhibition match (AFP photo)

Rudd Gullit

Dutch hope Gullit will ignite World Cup campaign

ISTANBUL (R) — The Netherlands hope the return of playmaker Rudd Gullit will provide the missing inspiration to ignite their World Cup qualifying campaign against Turkey Wednesday after a disastrous start.

The Dutch desperately need to beat Turkey in Istanbul to stay in contention for one of the two qualifying places from Group two for the 1994 finals following defeat in Norway and a draw at home to Poland in their opening games.

Gullit's surprise return after quitting international soccer for personal reasons at the beginning of a season which has seen him fighting for a place in the AC Milan side, has been a big lift for Dutch coach Dick Advocaat.

Gullit, who may be lacking match fitness, was replaced after an hour in Milan's European Cup tie against PSV Eindhoven last Wednesday due to cramp in both legs and admitted that although he was fine he lacked rhythm.

Advocaat, who pleaded with him to reverse his decision to quit, said: "In my opinion he is still one of the 16 best Dutch soccer players."

But the return of the former

national captain is offset by the loss of leading Dutch league goalscorer Dennis Bergkamp of Ajax with a leg injury.

Advocaat remained silent on his goalkeeper selection between Ajax's Stanley Menzo, who has recovered from a broken thumb with good performances, and Feyenoord's consistent Ed de Goey.

Menzo was heavily criticised after the 2-2 draw against Poland when he blundered a few times and gave away the second Polish goal.

In a tight group which could be decided on goal difference, the former European champions will be seeking not only victory but a substantial goal tally to turn a negative account into a healthy one.

Turkey are always a difficult proposition at home but last month's 4-0 defeat in England may have deflated their spirits after opening with a narrow 1-0 loss in Poland and a rare 4-1 victory over fellow-group outsiders San Marino.

They may also be without regular midfielders Unal Kahraman and Ogun Temizkanoglu who both sprained an ankle in a weekend training match.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
© 1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ADD THAT EXTRA CHANCE

Both vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH
♠ A K Q
♥ J 8 3
♦ Q 8 7 3 2
♣ 7 4 3
EAST
♠ K 10 5 3 2
♥ A Q 9 8
♦ J 10 8 7
♣ K J

SOUTH
♠ J 10 9 5 2
♥ 7 4
♦ A Q 6 4 2
♣ 5

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠
Even a line with a 70 percent probability rates to fail three times out of 10. So anything you can do to improve the odds should be searched for diligently.
South bid the hand well. Once spades were supported the South hand improved enormously in value. Three diamonds asked North for help in the diamond suit for game, and that's certainly what North held.

In an attempt to cut down on declarer's ruffing capability, West led a trump. South was quite happy with this contract. The primary line required only a 3-2 diamond split, a 68 percent shot. Declarer drew trumps and started on diamonds. Unfortunately, the break was disadvantageous and declarer could collect only nine tricks.

As long as trumps were 3-2, there was a second chance available, admittedly rather slight. But it could be adopted at no cost—always an attractive proposition. If diamonds were 4-1, declarer could still land the game if the player with the diamond shortage also had no more than two trumps.

After winning the opening lead, declarer should cash a second trump. If both opponents follow, the king and ace of diamonds come next. Should the suit break 3-2, declarer draws the last trump and takes three more diamonds. As the cards lie, however, East shows out on the second diamond, but can't ruff. Declarer cashes the queen of diamonds and ruffs a diamond on the table, and sooner or later will get back to hand with a ruff to draw the last trump and the long diamond is the fulfilling trick.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16, 1992

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Farm

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Although there is an opportunity through an influential person, you find that you are apt too make some snap decision that can nullify the otherwise solid influences that are operating.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Consider well every item of income or expenses that requires attention on your part and be conscientious in carrying through with solving these.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have the right instinct early in the day on just what to do in order to improve your appearance and your personal handling of activities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A day to get into the private and confidential phases of the conditions that you are trying to perfect and have every item correctly analysed.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) No day for daydreaming or romanticising with whatever is of importance to you but make sure you get a very down to earth understanding of your position.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take some time out to build your credit and reputation as a sensible person of good common sense in the world of outside activity to make headway.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You now have a day when, if

you are going to be successful, when you need to be organised in studying to make your dreams a reality. (September 23 to October 22) Its advisable that you make a close analysis of where your mundane matters, and them by correcting any errors.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You early have a good just what to do in the good will and active of a usually stubborn person.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Look into some specific duties that you and you will find the do them in such a manner can gain much acclaim.

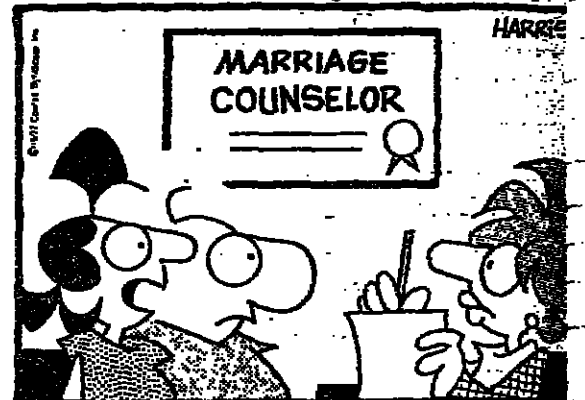
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Follow a morning lunch about your plan for the future, that your spirit and take are seen and stick to doing.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Whatever you have to tell family members is something that, despite should be put off until propitious moment.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get out and improve your phone conversations that are vital in the get into statements and later in the day.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harry

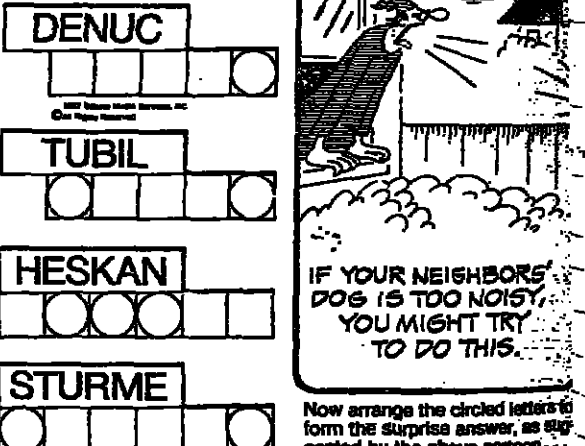


"We're totally out of synch! When I needed a snuggle he gave me a cuddle!"

JUMBLE

THAT'S A SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

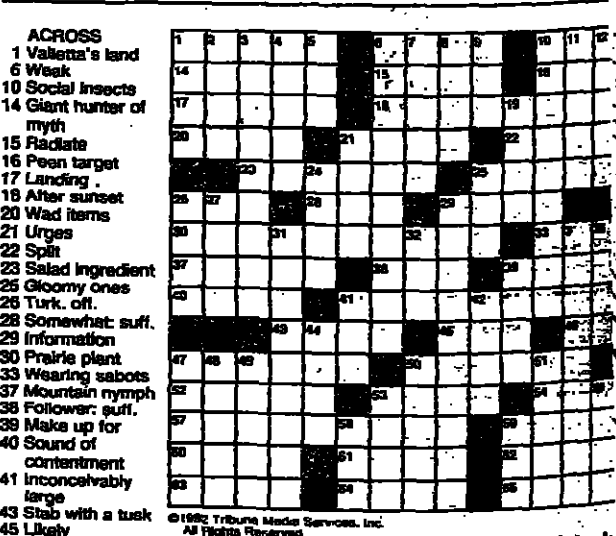


Answer here: "O O O O" AT "O O O O"

Yesterday's Jumbles: COUGH BAKED NORMAL POUNCE

Answer: Who thought he was Napoleon? NAPOLEON

THE Daily Crossword by Harry Bryan



© 1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solution:

ACROSS
1. Valeria's land
6. West
10. Social insects
14. Giant hunter of myth
15. Radiate
16. Peen target
17. Landing
18. After sunset
20. Wad items
21. Urges
22. Split
23. Solid ingredient
24. Gloomy ones
25. Turk. off.
26. Somewhat soft
27. Mountain nymph
28. Followed
30. Prairie plant
33. Wearing sabots
37. Mountain nymph
38. Make up for
40. Sound of contentment
41. Inconceivably large
43. Albat with a tusk
45. Libby
46. Gr. letter
47. Some tires
50. Thespian's trade
52. House on a height
53. B.A. word
54. Spoken
57. San
58. Pat or Daniel
60. Antler segment
61. do-well
62. Moberk's dam
63. The Bard
64. Rogues
65. Blockies
DOWN
1. Nearly all
2. Comedies
3. Circus performer
4. Trunk
5. No matter which
6. Longitudinally
7. Homburg's dam
8. Russian aircraft
9. Biblical suffix
10. Certain appetizer
11. Ingentious
12. Track figure
13. Rungs
15. Translation of a foreign text
17. Let up
18. Weather word
25. Peaved
26. On
27. Spiritual teacher
29. Critics
31. Haggled
32. Superlative ending
34. From one's own garden
35. Sep.
36. Tent: prof.
38. Against
41. Clogs, vits
42. Chooses
43. Oil cartel
47. Floots
48. Unsettled
49. Holding machine
50. Made a bow, in a way
51. Gellows loop
53. Believed
54. Med. adv.
55. Conceal or correct
56. Purses
58. Purses

economy

Financial Markets
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank
A Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 14.12.92	Tokyo Close Date 15.12.92
Average Pound	1.5665	1.5640
Swiss Mark	1.5695	1.5725
West Franc	1.4090	1.4128
French Franc	5.3545	5.3665
Japanese Yen	123.65	123.83
European Currency Unit	1.2495	1.2466

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
S. Dollar	3.63	3.62	3.62	3.93
British Pound	7.43	6.87	6.68	6.50
Swiss Mark	9.00	8.37	8.56	7.93
West Franc	6.12	6.12	5.87	5.56
French Franc	11.00	10.50	10.00	9.13
Japanese Yen	3.87	3.71	3.68	3.62
European Currency Unit	11.00	10.75	10.18	9.18

Currency	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	334.75	6.60	Silver	3.73	.060

Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 15.12.1992

Currency	Bid	Offer
S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900
British Pound	1.0748	1.0802
Swiss Mark	0.4370	0.4392
West Franc	0.4865	0.4889
French Franc	0.1283	0.1289
Japanese Yen	0.5551	0.5579
Gold	0.3887	0.3906
Silver	0.1013	0.1018
Iran Rial	0.0493	0.0495
Yugoslav Dinar	0.0212	0.0213

Currency	Bid	Offer
British Dinar	1.7990	1.8150
Iran Rial	0.03528	0.03535
Yugoslav Dinar	0.1630	0.1640
Yugoslav Dinar	2.2850	2.3000
Yugoslav Dinar	0.1864	0.1874
Yugoslav Dinar	0.2020	0.2150
Yugoslav Dinar	1.7550	1.7690
Yugoslav Dinar	0.1864	0.1874
Yugoslav Dinar	0.3292	0.3333
Yugoslav Dinar	1.4620	1.4766

Index	13.12.1992 Close	14.12.1992 Close
Share	165.42	166.45
King Sector	120.16	120.61
Private Sector	179.54	179.41
Public Sector	224.66	226.42
Index 31, 1992 = 100	237.78	240.75

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

DON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. dollar	1.2750/55	Canadian dollar	1.5715/22
	1.7670/90	Deutsche marks	1.4105/15
	32.31/35	Swiss francs	5.3670/720
	140.2/1405	French francs	123.93/98
	6.7775/875	Italian lire	6.7700/800
	6.0500/600	Japanese yen	1.5620/30
	1.5620/30	Swedish crowns	334.65/335.15
	334.65/335.15	Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	

Clinton says U.S. not yet 'out of woods'

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (R) — President-elect Bill Clinton convened an economic conference Monday with a warning that Americans must not be lulled into complacency by signs of faster growth in the economy.

Referring to a third-quarter pickup in the output of goods and services and a decline in U.S. unemployment, Mr. Clinton said it was "far too early to assume that we are out of the woods, even in this prolonged business-cycle recession."

His comments, at the start of a two-day meeting that gave some 300 business, labour and academic leaders the opportunity to advise him on how to make America more prosperous, were yet another signal that the incoming administration will give top priority to pocketbook issues.

The conference, which focused initially on the state of the domestic economy, was broadcast live on U.S. television and radio.

Rife with graphs and charts, the meeting quickly took on the look of a university class — one with an abundance of guest lecturers and led by the man who takes responsibility for the U.S. economy when he is inaugurated Jan. 20.

"The economy is why the American people gave me a chance ... to turn this country around," said Mr. Clinton who defeated President George Bush and independent Ross Perot in

the Nov. 3 election after a bruising campaign that turned on perceptions that the U.S. economy was deteriorating.

"We're here because our nation and our people must prepare for global competition," he said. Mr. Clinton listed five long-term issues that the United States must tackle: Improving education and job training, increasing public and private investment, reducing the budget deficit, adopting a new environmental and energy policy and more personal involvement in the country's affairs.

He called the \$300 billion deficit an "economic ball and chain" that was keeping long-term interest rates high.

"We're going to have to make some tough decisions and hard choices" to soak up federal red ink, he said.

Analysts say the hard choices must include tax increases and cuts in such heretofore politically untouchable programmes as the Medicare government-funded health care for the elderly, farm subsidies and veterans' benefits.

"We are in this, all of us, together. And let's not kid ourselves. These are hard questions," Mr. Clinton said.

He said he will raise taxes on the richest Americans but has not spelled out in great detail what kinds of spending cuts he may propose.

On hand for the conference were Mr. Clinton's wife, Hillary,

Vice President-elect Al Gore and all the members of the team Mr. Clinton has recently nominated to shape his economic policy, including Treasury Secretary-designate Lloyd Bentsen.

There was to be an opportunity for the public to call in comments, giving the conference the added flavour of an electronic town hall meeting, the kind of political give-and-take pioneered by Mr. Perot and used to some extent by all the candidates in the 1992 presidential campaign.

This caused critics to deride the meeting as shallow symbolism for media consumption, but Mr. Clinton and his advisers said it would generate ideas and demonstrate the kind of direct outreach that will characterise his presidency.

The first presentation was made by Robert Solow, a Nobel prizewinner from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who provoked a laugh from the hall full of business-suited executives and professors by saying: "I'm used to teaching large classes but this is ridiculous."

Other speakers at the first working session included John White, a former Carter administration official who drew up Mr. Perot's much-publicised deficit reduction plan, and Apple Computer boss John Sculley, who stressed the importance of improving education and job-training programmes.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Clinton related an anecdote similar to the personal tales he often used in the campaign to personalise the economic hardships of citizens.

He told the story of Benjamin Edwards, a 52-year-old unemployed resident of Germantown, Pennsylvania, saying that during a campaign rally, Mr. Edwards told him, "I need a job."

"I need your help to fulfil my commitment to Benjamin Edwards," the president-elect told the conference.

A year ago, U.S. consumers were deeply depressed about the future and most indicators of the country's vigour were heading downwards.

Last week economists were scrambling to revise their estimates for economic growth in the final quarter of 1992 amid signs of growing consumer optimism and more spending.

The national unemployment rate fell for the fifth month in succession in November and retail sales increased for the fifth month, a symmetry that neatly highlights the link between job prospects and spending power.

"From mid-1989 to mid-1992 we had steady job losses that just cut into people's willingness to spend because they were losing the capacity to do so," said David Jones, an economist with Aubrey G. Lanston and Co. in New York.

In the world's biggest consumer society, spending by Americans fuels two-thirds of national economic activity.

On Friday, the University of Michigan said its consumer confidence index rose to 91.4 per cent in mid-December from 85.3 per cent in November.

"We're revising our fourth-quarter gross domestic product forecast upward from 1.5 per cent to three per cent, based on surprisingly strong consumer spending," economist Ed Yardeni of C.J. Lawrence Securities in New York said. He added that growing optimism "suggests consumer recovery is sustainable."

In the last three months of 1991, the economy expanded only by an anemic 0.6 per cent annual rate.

Retail sales went up every month from July to November, when they increased a moderate 0.4 per cent after a 1.9 per cent rise in October.

Mr. Jones said he was pushing up his estimate for the increase in total goods and services output, which GDP measures, to an annual rate of 2.75 per cent during the fourth quarter.

"That's a critical level because any growth we get above 2.5 per cent gets us to the level where growth begins to feed on itself and we will start to see jobs created," Mr. Jones said.

Economist Allen Sinai of the Boston Co. says the presidential election on Nov. 3 was the point at which consumer attitudes began to change. It settled who won and made voters feel better because of Mr. Clinton's pledge to focus "like a laser beam" on the economy.

"People feel that if things get bad, Washington will step in and that's reassuring consumers," Mr. Sinai said, adding that the steady improvement in economic indicators brought into question whether the incoming Clinton administration would go ahead with a fiscal stimulus package.

If the economy can sustain itself, policymakers would prefer this to pumping money into government programmes. That makes shifts in consumer attitudes particularly significant at the current stage of recovery.

Mr. Sinai said estimates showed the state of consumers' hopes and fears affected about 55 per cent of the average household's spending decisions.

"If we continue to get increased spending it will generate jobs and income in a self-sustaining way, he said. The pace of income growth does not support runaway consumer spending but it is enough to keep the economy expanding."

growth begins to feed on itself and we will start to see jobs created," Mr. Jones said.

Economist Allen Sinai of the Boston Co. says the presidential election on Nov. 3 was the point at which consumer attitudes began to change. It settled who won and made voters feel better because of Mr. Clinton's pledge to focus "like a laser beam" on the economy.

"People feel that if things get bad, Washington will step in and that's reassuring consumers," Mr. Sinai said, adding that the steady improvement in economic indicators brought into question whether the incoming Clinton administration would go ahead with a fiscal stimulus package.

If the economy can sustain itself, policymakers would prefer this to pumping money into government programmes. That makes shifts in consumer attitudes particularly significant at the current stage of recovery.

Mr. Sinai said estimates showed the state of consumers' hopes and fears affected about 55 per cent of the average household's spending decisions.

"If we continue to get increased spending it will generate jobs and income in a self-sustaining way, he said. The pace of income growth does not support runaway consumer spending but it is enough to keep the economy expanding."

growth begins to feed on itself and we will start to see jobs created," Mr. Jones said.

Economist Allen Sinai of the Boston Co. says the presidential election on Nov. 3 was the point at which consumer attitudes began to change. It settled who won and made voters feel better because of Mr. Clinton's pledge to focus "like a laser beam" on the economy.

"People feel that if things get bad, Washington will step in and that's reassuring consumers," Mr. Sinai said, adding that the steady improvement in economic indicators brought into question whether the incoming Clinton administration would go ahead with a fiscal stimulus package.

Kuwait says it spent \$25.4 b in 90-91

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti government spending in the Gulf crisis fiscal year 1990-1991 stood at 7.6 billion dinars (\$25.4 billion), Finance Minister Nasser Abdullah Rodhan said in reply to a parliamentary question.

The Arab Times quoted Sheikh Rodhan as saying Kuwait spent 6.33 billion dinars (\$22.1 billion) from July 1, 1990 to June 30, 1991, on "miscellaneous spending and convertible projects."

Of this, he said 1.37 billion dinars (\$4.6 billion) went on "emergency spending" and 4.34 billion dinars (\$14.5 billion) on "other commitments."

The newspaper said miscellaneous spending usually included defence expenditure.

Other spending included 671 million dinars (\$2.2 billion) on wages, and 197 million dinars (\$657 million) on construction projects.

Iraqis were forced out of Kuwait in February 1991.

Government spending in the 1991-1992 fiscal year has been estimated slightly lower than the previous year at around 6.2 billion dinars (\$20.7 billion).

The emirate has tightened its belt since the Iraqis entered Kuwait in August 1990 and devastated its oil facilities. Kuwait has liquidated much of its overseas assets, once worth around \$100 billion, to help cover the costs of the U.S.-led military action.

Meanwhile, Kuwait is having second thoughts about a \$20 billion bonds-for-debt scheme to rescue its troubled commercial banks. The plan aimed to help put the economy on an even keel after the upheavals of the seven-month Iraqi occupation.

Kuwait's government passed into law in May the plan to buy out bad debts from troubled commercial banks. The plan aimed to help put the economy on an even keel after the upheavals of the seven-month Iraqi occupation.

Bat Kuwait's newly-elected parliament has started reviewing official KUNA news agency, said there was a tendency in the committee opposing the scheme, which has already bailed out nine banks by offering bonds worth 4.34 billion dinars (\$14.5 billion).

"We believe the previous treatment (of the banks) was conducted the wrong way," KUNA quoted Sheikh Shant as saying.

But committee member Mufraj Al Mutairi told Reuters that despite reservations over the scheme he did not expect the group would seek its withdrawal.

Kuwait's government passed into law in May the plan to buy out bad debts from troubled commercial banks. The plan aimed to help put the economy on an even keel after the upheavals of the seven-month Iraqi occupation.

official KUNA news agency, said there was a tendency in the committee opposing the scheme, which has already bailed out nine banks by offering bonds worth 4.34 billion dinars (\$14.5 billion).

"We believe the previous treatment (of the banks) was conducted the wrong way," KUNA quoted Sheikh Shant as saying.

But committee member Mufraj Al Mutairi told Reuters that despite reservations over the scheme he did not expect the group would seek its withdrawal.

Kuwait's government passed into law in May the plan to buy out bad debts from troubled commercial banks. The plan aimed to help put the economy on an even keel after the upheavals of the seven-month Iraqi occupation.

Bat Kuwait's newly-elected parliament has started reviewing official KUNA news agency, said there was a tendency in the committee opposing the scheme, which has already bailed out nine banks by offering bonds worth 4.34 billion dinars (\$14.5 billion).

"We believe the previous treatment (of the banks) was conducted the wrong way," KUNA quoted Sheikh Shant as saying.

But committee member Mufraj Al Mutairi told Reuters that despite reservations over the scheme he did not expect the group would seek its withdrawal.

official KUNA news agency, said there was a tendency in the committee opposing the scheme, which has already bailed out nine banks by offering bonds worth 4.34 billion dinars (\$14.5 billion).

"We believe the previous treatment (of the banks) was conducted the wrong way," KUNA quoted Sheikh Shant as saying.

But committee member Mufraj Al Mutairi told Reuters that despite reservations over the scheme he did not expect the group would seek its withdrawal.

Kuwait's government passed into law in May the plan to buy out bad debts from troubled commercial banks. The plan aimed to help put the economy on an even keel after the upheavals of the seven-month Iraqi occupation.

Bat Kuwait's newly-elected parliament has started reviewing official KUNA news agency, said there was a tendency in the committee opposing the scheme, which has already bailed out nine banks by offering bonds worth 4.34 billion dinars (\$14.5 billion).

"We believe the previous treatment (of the banks) was conducted the wrong way," KUNA quoted Sheikh Shant as saying.

But committee member Mufraj Al Mutairi told Reuters that despite reservations over the scheme he did not expect the group would seek its withdrawal.

Cinema Tel: 677420
CONCORD
ROOKIE
Shows: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30
TO HUT TO HANDLE
Show: 6:15 ONLY

Cinema Tel: 634144
PHILADELPHIA
HARD TO KILL
Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
Special show for children
Thursdays + Fridays at 11 a.m.
Kinder Garten Cop

Tel: 675571
Nabil Al Mashini Theatre
Young Women Christian Association Choral
Dec. 12-15, 1992
at 8 p.m.

Tel: 625155
AHLAN THEATRE
Nabil & Hisham's
AHLAN THEATRE
will be closed for the annual holiday as of Dec. 31, 1992
The temporary suspension of the
'Welcome New World Order'
play will end by January 15, 1993.

SAFECO
PURCHASE JD 10/- WORTH OF GOODS AND ABOVE, AND ENTER THE DRAW FOR THESE FABULOUS PRIZES

- 1) RUM METAL MANUFACTURING CO. GASCOOKER
- 2) ASTRA ESTABLISHMENT FOR COMMERCIAL AGENCIES
- 3) AMMAN MARRIOTT HOTEL
- 4) AL-SALASEL AL-DAHABIEH EST.
- 5) WOLLEN INDUSTRIES CO. LTD.
- 6) PALESTINIAN TRADING CO.
- 7) JORDAN CLOTHING CO.
- 8) HUAZI & GOSHEH FOOD STUFFS CO.
- 9) INDUSTRIAL PROD. ENG. CORP.
- 10) RAMADAN ORABI STORES
- 11) JORDAN ANTISEPTICS & DETERGENTS IND. CO.
- 12) SAUDI JORDAN TRAD. & INV. CO.
- 13) GEORGE M. KHOURY DRUG STORES
- 14) AL-DEIR TRAD. EST. DELMA & ACCONA STORES
- 15) JORDAN REFRIGERATION INDUSTRY & TRADING CO. (RITCO)
- 16) SPINNEYS 1948 LTD. CO.
- 17) GULF RESOURCES TRADING CO.
- 18) THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIALS & AGRICULTURAL CO. LTD.
- 19) MUNIR SUKHITIAN TRADING
- 20) MODERN INT'L EST.
- 21) KAWTHER INVESTMENT CO.
- 22) JORDAN DAIRY COMPANY LTD.
- 23) SUGHAYER TRADING STORES FOR HOUSEHOLD ARTICLES
- 24) MUWAFFAQ ABDUL FATTAH SADDAR
- 25) NAIM SHAHADEH & BROS. TRD. CO.
- 26) FUTURE NATURAL PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING CO. LTD.
- 27) SAFEWAY

DRAW DATE: 1ST JANUARY 5:00 PM

ONE STOP SHOP
SAFECO
محطة واحدة للتسوق

World News

NATO agrees to U.N. request for Yugoslavia action plan

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — The United Nations has asked NATO to help plan further military action in former Yugoslavia and the alliance has agreed, NATO sources said Tuesday.

They said the planning would include enforcement of a no-fly zone over Bosnia.

The sources told Reuters that U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali made the request in a letter to NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner, with growing signs that the West may be ready to take stiffer measures in the conflict.

As a result, ambassadors from the 16 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) members — including the United States, France and Britain — agreed to start formal military planning for the first time at a meeting Monday, the sources said.

"We have the green light from the U.N. we wanted," said one source. NATO has said it would be ready to take further action to try and stop the killing in former Yugoslavia or prevent the spread of the conflict only if the U.N. asked for help first.

NATO's military had already begun informal planning in three areas: How to use aircraft to enforce the U.N. ban on military flights over Bosnia, creating "safe havens" for civilians and preventing the war spreading to areas like Macedonia and Kosovo.

The latest move means that the alliance can now draw up formal plans. A new U.N. resolution would be needed before they could be implemented.

The plans so far do not include sending in large numbers of combat troops to try and end the fighting, something most Western allies say would be impossible and costly in lives.

Mr. Woerner said last week the

alliance would do "what is necessary" if the United Nations ordered action.

Although NATO would not act unilaterally, its members would have the main responsibility for action under the U.N. umbrella.

The United States, Britain and France all sit on the U.N. permanent Security Council.

Those countries and others are considering a resolution to use military force against Serbian helicopters and aircraft violating the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina, possibly including the right to attack air bases.

A final decision is unlikely until after the Dec. 20 presidential elections in Serbia. Milan Panic, a moderate, is running against Slobodan Milosevic, whose policies are widely blamed for the bloodshed in Croatia and Bosnia. Meanwhile, houses burned through the night on a Serb-controlled hillside south of the destroyed parliament building in Sarajevo after a ferocious exchange of shelling just before midnight.

The shelling, the heaviest in central Sarajevo for several days, was concentrated on the Serb-held old Jewish Cemetery and consisted mainly of mortar fire. It was followed by further flurries of mortar, machinegun and automatic weapons fire.

Radio Bosnia, lacking telephone communications with the rest of the republic, gave no morning military report.

The U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said Sarajevo was without power after Bosnian fire destroyed a sub-station in Serb-held Ilidza.

A main water pumping station had also been put out of action, leaving most of the city without water.

UNPROFOR said that even if

water was flowing, there was no chlorine to treat it. Chlorine stocks may be replenished if the relief airlift restarts Tuesday.

The leader of Bosnian Serbs has said that his self-styled parliament would meet this week to declare an end to the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said he hoped fighting would end before the new year.

Radovan Karadzic appeared to be seeking to ease pressure on Bosnian Serbs.

Top Western officials meeting in several European venues this week are again considering possible military intervention in Bosnia, and Serbia's nationalist president, Slobodan Milosevic, faces an electoral challenge Sunday from a moderate who seeks peace.

U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger Monday urged Europe and the former Soviet republics to identify Serb "perpetrators of crimes against humanity" and make sure they are tried as war criminals.

The Dutch government has offered to send air force planes to Bosnia, becoming the strongest European backer of military intervention there.

"We've made it clear that, if asked by our international partners, we're prepared to send 10 F 16s to enforce a no-fly zone" over Bosnia once a U.N. resolution authorising force is approved, Defence Ministry spokesman Hendrik Schoonen said Monday in the Hague.

Bosnian Serbs have flown more than 225 military missions since an air pact was imposed by the U.N. Security Council in October to protect the Muslims.

At the United Nations in New York, Ambassador Jean Bernard Merimee of France said Monday his government was drafting a

resolution for enforcing the no-fly zone and that it would be presented to the Security Council.

In Bonn, German cabinet member Christian Schwarz-Schilling, the post and telecommunications minister, expressed shame Monday over his government's failure to intercede in the conflict and announced his resignation.

Mr. Karadzic told reporters in Belgrade, the Serb and Yugoslav capital, that the assembly of his self-proclaimed Serb republic would meet Thursday "to adopt a declaration on ending the war."

The declaration would embody Serbs' "unilateral rejection of all military solutions of this crisis" and he hoped "this was a good opportunity to end this war before the new year," he said.

It would be "like a boxer pulling off his gloves and telling the referee 'no more,'" Mr. Karadzic said.

"If the other boxer then attacks, then he is the aggressor," he said.

In a separate development, more than 1,000 prisoners were freed from the Serb-controlled Manjaca detention camp in western Bosnia Monday and handed over to International Red Cross officials near the Croatian town of Novska.

It was the first step in a plan by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to evacuate 3,000 prisoners from Manjaca and close the camp by the end of the week.

Eight prisoners, two of them on hospital trolleys, were taken to a hospital in Zagreb immediately on arrival.

The prisoners, some of whom looked as if they were still in their teens, said their treatment had improved after the ICRC started visiting the camp regularly last August.



A Bosnian collects firewood as Sarajevo faces critical shortage of fuel (AFP photo).

CSCE edges towards compromise on Yugoslavia; seeks wider role

STOCKHOLM (R) — The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) edged towards compromise over the war in Yugoslavia Tuesday as the 51-nation body struggled for a wider role after the cold war.

"I think we shall have a compromise," Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic told reporters after diplomats said he had threatened to veto a CSCE statement on the conflict unless it reflected his demands.

Sarajevo had demanded that the statement, to be issued at the end of two-day talks by foreign ministers, call for a lifting of a U.N. arms embargo which the Muslim say is strangling their attempts to resist better-armed Serb forces.

"I think it (the statement) will call for our basic requirements," Mr. Silajdzic said. But he declined to confirm that it would specifically urge the lifting of the embargo.

Lord Owen, co-chairman of the international conference on Yugoslavia, has urged ministers to keep the ban, saying Russian weapons could flood into Serb hands if it was lifted.

Ministers, trying to give the CSCE a wider role in ending disputes, have also been divided

on whether to recommend tougher action to enforce a no-fly zone over Bosnia, which has been violated by Serbian helicopters.

The CSCE, comprising all states of Europe, the former Soviet Union and North America, is also struggling to shake off its unwieldy image by setting up a peace conference on the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, but delegates reported deadlock.

"There has been no progress," said David Shahbazarian, a member of the Armenian delegation. More than 2,500 people have died in Nagorno-Karabakh since 1988. The enclave is formally part of Azerbaijan but is populated by Armenians.

In one move hailed as a major step forward in the CSCE's peacemaking powers, 29 of the countries signed a "Stockholm convention" setting up a court in Geneva to rule on disputes between nations.

The court will only make binding rulings on countries which have accepted its jurisdiction. Britain and the United States were among CSCE states which declined to sign, reckoning the new court might infringe their sovereignty.

The peace of the signing cere-

mony, in which ministers rose from their seats round the eight-sided conference table and signed the accord, contrasted with scenes of shocked bewilderment in the flag-draped hall Monday.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev had plunged the meeting into confusion by delivering first a headline speech full of cold war rhetoric, then cancelling his remarks only 45 minutes later.

Russian aides said Mr. Kozyrev was trying "shock diplomacy" to bring home the chilling implications to the West if Russia's reformist President Boris Yeltsin lost a power struggle to conservatives in the Kremlin.

Ministers are also due to agree to send a six-strong team of monitors to Estonia to oversee relations between the Russian minority and Estonians and to step up peace efforts in Georgia.

The ministers were also close to approving a plan to raise the number of observers in former Yugoslavia, most of them in Kosovo province near the Albanian border.

The CSCE is due to appoint former Dutch Foreign Minister Max Van Der Stoep to the new post of high commissioner on national minorities, with the aim of heading off ethnic disputes before they spill over into violence.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Van Den Broek to take EC post

THE HAGUE (R) — Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek of the Netherlands will succeed his fellow-countryman Frans Andriessen as Dutch European Commissioner with effect from Jan. 2, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. "He will succeed Andriessen as a member of the European Commission, but this does not mean that he will take the same post as external affairs commissioner," a Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Mr. Andriessen is the longest-serving member of the European Community's Executive Commission and the second most powerful man in Brussels after Commission President Jacques Delors. The Dutch Foreign Ministry said Mr. Andriessen had asked not to be reappointed. "The government respects his decision and expresses its gratitude for his considerable services as Dutch member of the Commission," the Netherlands said in a statement. Mr. Van Den Broek, a Christian Democrat who became foreign minister in 1982, is the longest serving member of Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers' cabinet.

Vietnam praises U.S. embargo move

HANOI (R) — Vietnam said Tuesday a U.S. decision to ease its economic embargo was an encouraging move towards normalising relations but urged Washington to do more. The United States, in its biggest gesture towards Hanoi since the Vietnam War ended in 1975, announced Monday that U.S. firms could now open offices in Vietnam, hire staff and sign contracts that would take effect if and when the embargo was lifted. "This is an active step towards the normalisation of relations between Vietnam and the United States. However, Vietnamese companies find it difficult to really expand relations with U.S. companies if contracts they sign... do not take immediate effect," the Hanoi Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "Vietnam hopes the U.S. government will take further steps to create conditions for American companies to move truly into the Vietnamese market. That would not only benefit U.S. companies, but would also be in the interest of the people of both countries."

Panic gets boost in Serbian election

BELGRADE (R) — The influential president of Yugoslavia has given his public backing to moderate Milan Panic in the race for president of Serbia, adding new impetus to the campaign of the Yugoslav-born U.S. millionaire. The strong endorsement by President Dobrica Cosic, a highly-regarded writer, added spice to what promises to be a tight election Sunday between Mr. Panic, currently Yugoslav premier, and hardline nationalist Slobodan Milosevic. "Each candidate... who in principle accepts by programme and goals can count on my support and cooperation," he said, naming Mr. Panic but not Mr. Milosevic. Last month Mr. Cosic delivered a sharp attack on Mr. Milosevic, saying the differences between them were too wide to overcome.

700 drowned in Indonesia tidal wave

MAUMERE, Indonesia (R) — About 700 inhabitants of a small island were washed away by a huge tidal wave that hit eastern Indonesia after an earthquake, a local government spokesman said Tuesday. The spokesman said the 700 had been washed away from Babi Island Saturday in a tidal wave triggered by the earthquake, which measured 6.8 on the Richter Scale. "We have not recovered all the bodies," he said, adding that the island's total population was around 900. The government Monday put

the death toll from the earthquake at nearly 1,600, but it was not clear if the figure included the dead in Babi as well as victims in the larger island of Flores.

Georgia denies downing helicopter

MOSCOW (R) — Georgia denied Tuesday that it had shot down a relief helicopter carrying more than 30 women and children evacuees from Georgia's breakaway Abkhazia region, Interfax News Agency said. The Russian Defence Ministry issued a formal protest, saying Georgian forces brought down the helicopter Monday using a surface-to-air missile. The craft burst into flames and crashed into a mountainside, killing all on board. Interfax quoted the Georgian military command as saying its forces could not be blamed because the area in question "was under the full control of the Abkhaz armed formations and is out of bounds for the Georgian side." Hundreds of people have been killed in Abkhazia since Georgia moved troops into rebel region in August after the local parliament demanded more sovereignty. Russian troops deployed in the region have been accused more than once by Tbilisi of siding with Abkhazians in the conflict. Moscow has rejected such accusations.

U.S. Judge acquits Mexican doctor

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A doctor whose kidnapping by U.S.-paid bounty hunters in Mexico raised tensions between the countries was declared innocent Monday in the torture and murder of a federal drug agent. But Dr. Humberto Alvarez Machain remained in prison. While the government appealed the acquittal and sought to keep him from leaving the country, U.S. District Judge Edward Rafeedie acquitted Dr. Alvarez after the prosecution rested its case against him. The judge told prosecutors: "There has to be stronger evidence than you have offered to find that a man is guilty of kidnapping, murder and torture." Dr. Alvarez, 45, grew red-faced as the judge announced his decision. His eyes filled with tears and he stood up as his attorney, Alan Rubin, leaped to his feet and embraced him.

China completes biggest army reshuffle

PEKING (R) — China has completed its most sweeping reshuffle of army commanders since the Communist state was founded in 1949, boosting the power of Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, a Peking controlled newspaper said Tuesday. "This reshuffle of senior military officials was the biggest since the founding of the nation in terms of its large scale, the number of personnel involved and its broad extent," the Hong Kong-based Wen Wei Po said. The newspaper, which is often used by China's leadership to release sensitive information, said the changes took place from the middle of October to the end of last month. There has been no similar announcement in the official, press inside China, but the report confirmed accounts by Chinese sources with military connections and Western diplomats. The sources said the purge in the army's top ranks was directly linked to the fall from grace of Yang Baibing, the younger half-brother of President Yang Shangkun and until recently one of China's most powerful generals. Yang Baibing was unceremoniously dropped from his top military positions during the Communist Party's 14th congress in October, gaining in return a seat — but little influence — on the 20-man politburo.

Alert in Los Angeles after disturbance

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Police were placed on alert citywide Monday evening after rocks and bottles were thrown by people in a crowd at an intersection that was a flashpoint of the spring riots. Community activists had handed out fliers at the intersection of Florence and Normandie Avenues in the city's south central region in support of four men jailed for the beating of trucker Reginald Denny at the site. After the organisers left at about 3:30 p.m., some of about 50 people who had gathered for the demonstration became unruly, said Lt. John Dunkin, a Los Angeles Police Department spokesman. He said some people blocked traffic, and a few rocks and bottles were thrown. Officers in riot gear responded to the disturbance. Lt. Dunkin said six people were arrested. No injuries were reported. Police initially declared a tactical alert in the department's South Bureau, cordoning off a four block area around the Florence Normandie intersection and closing off access to and from a freeway, Lt. Dunkin said.

Yeltsin says his reforms are safe

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin sought to reassure the world Tuesday that his reforms were still on course as radical ministers decided whether to stay on under a more conservative prime minister.

At a Kremlin meeting with visiting German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the Russian president expressed confidence in New Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, ITAR-TASS News Agency said.

"We have worked with him for a long time and I am sure there will be no backtracking on reform under him," Mr. Yeltsin told Mr. Kohl, who represents the main investor in Russia's market revolution.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, a former Communist Party apparatchik who served as energy minister in the last government, was also present and stressed his own reform credentials.

"I am not only committed to the reforms, but I even took part in drawing them up," he said. He asked for German help in pushing through the government's sweeping privatisation programme, a German spokesman said.

The fall Monday of acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, architect and symbol of Russia's bold reform programme, alarmed foreign governments keen to see Moscow, drawn closer to the West through free-market economics.

Russian radicals bewailed the change as a disaster for reform and portrayed Mr. Chernomyrdin as a technocrat close to the powerful lobby of old-school industrial managers.

A key factor in Western confi-

dence, investment and loans could be whether other reformist ministers stay on in office.

Mr. Chernomyrdin asked the rest of Mr. Gaidar's young cabinet to stay on, at least temporarily, saying he wanted to keep much of the team intact.

A government source said Monday Mr. Gaidar's key economic ministers — Andrei Nechayev (economy), Pyotr Aven (foreign trade), Anatoly Chubais (privatisation) and First Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Shokhin — planned to resign Tuesday.

They were not immediately available to say whether they would change their minds after Mr. Chernomyrdin's appeal. But Mr. Shokhin and Mr. Nechayev were both present at Mr. Yeltsin's meeting with Mr. Kohl and the top German economic ministers, TASS said.

Mr. Gaidar, who has steered Russia along a controversial fast-track course to the market for the past year, resigned but told reporters he would press some of his team to stay on.

Western governments are also concerned at the apparent loss of power by Mr. Yeltsin that Mr. Gaidar's fall represented.

Mr. Yeltsin put forward Mr. Chernomyrdin's name at the Congress of People's Deputies Monday after failing for the second time to win the supreme legislature's approval for Mr. Gaidar.

Mr. Yeltsin put a brave face on his defeat Tuesday. "The main result was that we managed to maintain our reform course, despite great pressure from the conservative wing, not to allow a split between the two branches of

power," he told Mr. Kohl. "Of course both congress and the president were obliged to make certain compromises, but in politics that is an ordinary occurrence," TASS quoted him as saying.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev accused President Yeltsin Tuesday of mishandling a battle with Russia's supreme parliament but said the exit of his chief reformer need not ring alarm bells in the West.

Mr. Gorbachev said Mr. Yeltsin, the bitter personal rival who dislodged him from the Kremlin a year ago, had mistakenly tried to bludgeon congress into submission during a bitter power struggle which unfolded last week.

"It's a lesson for Yeltsin," Mr. Gorbachev told reporters at a conference organised by the political think-tank he now heads.

"I think the president has a lot to understand — and he must understand, if he wants to act effectively as president... Even this time he couldn't restrain himself from launching an attack on the congress, waving a club in the air."

Mr. Gorbachev said the West should not be alarmed by the exit of Mr. Gaidar and the appointment of Mr. Chernomyrdin as premier.

"They're wrong to fall into this panic. They always link things in Russia with one personality. They should look at policy," he said.

The former Kremlin leader said Russia might need to take "a step backwards here and there in order to move forward confidently," but there could be no retreat from the main thrust of democratic and market reform.

Italy's fascists, protest parties benefit from voters' anti-government anger

ROME (AP) — Protest parties scored huge gains in local elections Monday as furious voters punished the ruling Socialists and Christian Democrats for corruption and austerity measures.

The Northern League, which is demanding autonomy from Rome for the affluent north, won control of two northern cities and took 14.5 per cent of the vote nationwide — more than triple its 4.5 per cent of the vote in the last round of municipal elections.

Voters were choosing govern-

ments for a province and 55 cities throughout Italy. Nearly 1 million people were eligible to vote.

The voting Sunday and Monday was the first local elections since the Northern League stunned the government in April by taking 9 per cent of the vote in parliament elections.

"It is a great victory that will have a political impact even on the national level," said Northern League leader Umberto Bossi.

"The traditional parties, involved in the corruption scandal,

no longer have any legitimacy and this puts up for discussion the possibility of early general elections."

In the northern city of Varese, the party won 37 per cent of the vote, and 32 per cent in the city of Monza, virtually guaranteeing it will head the new city governments.

The neo-fascist Italian Social Movement cashed in on voters' anger in the south, surpassing the long-dominant Christian Democrats in Reggio Di Calabria.



Intruder fouls grounds of P. Diana's home

LONDON (R) — arrested after he was caught on the grounds of Kensington Palace home of Prince Charles and Diana, Princess of Wales, for questioning "how he got in the area of the grounds open to the public," said a police spokesman. The spokesman said arrested when he he as police escorted palace grounds the p.m. It was not known Diana, 31, was at the time. The prince's live at Kensington her separation from Prince Charles announced last week.

Vote-cheating caught red-handed

WARSAW (R) — and opposition parties have called for a weekend vote on the after television and several deputies of coalition governments another vote after about the cheating evening television the evening which has chamber. The pro broadcast unilateral pushing their own and then those sent colleagues. The Democratic Left joined the governing putting forward a new vote, but said involve the whole by its accompanying. Parliamentary speaker Monday the Sejm/I was considering the would make an in soon. The current was introduced six in ease vote-counts and ing after previous. Deputies have their cards which activate and Saturday's would have to be cards belonging to MPs.

Tidy Alison presents end in the rubbish

BERKHAMSTED, I Alison Palmer's tidiness led to a disaster when she did rubbish bag in which friend had hidden the presents, including a £1,100, were crushed jaws of a rubbish thought the place up," said Palmer, 28, that her boyfriend's son, 27, was now furiously to replace gifts in time for Christmas.

Amsterdam 'ugly' Norway Christmas tree

AMSTERDAM (R) — day City Council away a Christmas tree the Norwegian city of because it was too spokeswoman said. "It was ugly. Have you really seen a pretty spokeswoman said. The council had discussed with the Norwegian did removing the to don't like it either." I has replaced. Trough with a Dutch one.

Police seize priceless ancient coins at Rome

ROME (R) — Italian they seized more than ancient Greek and Roman worth millions of collectors' fair at the. About 24 people were in swoop on the Rome gold, silver and bronze. Those arrested were handling stolen goods in possession of archaeological material. The raid took Italian police met Euro leagues for talks on how illicit trade in art once Community (EC) members are abolished. With one of the richest and archaeological in Europe, Italy fears the EC markets from Jan. 1 is invitation to art smugglers. There is a growing problem in the south, where the mafia and other criminals are using art as of laundering money, spokesman said.

TOP ELEGANCE
AT
ELEGANCE BOUTIQUE
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
THE LATEST FASHION DRESSES
FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR
SWEETEN - Tel: 827011